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AS MAPS TO THE STARS OPENS, METRO TAKES A LOOK AT SOME OF THE DIRECTOR'S DARKEST WORK PAGE 27

Time to fall back, Calgary

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CBC brass silent on Ghomeshi case

Current and former execs stay mum on what they knew about allegations of violence PAGE 18

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AGLC binge-drinking campaign leaves a bad taste for some

Social media. Several users on Twitter called the ad out for being unproductive

HELEN PIKE
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Here's one of the images being used by the AGLC in a new campaign called Thanks Alcohol. Some believe the campaign is in poor taste. COURTESY AGLC

You wake up on a Saturday, head pounding, dry mouth and cold sweat wondering: How much did I drink last night? How did I make it home?

You promise yourself that next time, next time you won't drink so much as you pull out your cellphone, still in your back pocket, and sift through the evidence of last night's binge-drink-fuelled mistakes.

This, and worse consequences are exactly what an ad campaign from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) is trying to prevent with its latest campaign: Thanks Alcohol.

"It's part of our low-risk drinking campaign, this is one cog in our wheel," said Bill Robinson, president and chief executive at the AGLC.

"This is a campaign that in reality, folks find themselves in these types of situations unfortunately from time to time and we want to be reflective of that, but that's the worst-case scenario in some instances if you use and abuse alcohol."

The sassy animated web page is filled with facts, and a quiz to determine "what kind of drinker" you are. The campaign cost more than $400,000, and is targeting 18- to 24-year-olds to raise awareness about the dangers of taking it too far when it comes to drinking alcohol.

Some, however, believe the campaign is in poor taste, and don't relate. On Twitter several users called the ad out for being unproductive, making fun of people with problems and perhaps being in poor taste, or suggesting that girls who drink are "easy."

"The actual concept of the website, I don't think is horrible," said Emily Leedham, president of The University of Calgary Consent Awareness & Sexual Education Club. "It's definitely not a very nuanced perspective, for sure. If someone is a violent drunk, I think their problem maybe goes a little bit deeper than just them drinking."

She raised concerns about one quiz result in particular: the easy lover, saying it perpetuated the idea that women who drink are easier to bed. Leedham says the site is reductionist, and that although alcohol can bring out things in people, it's not totally fair to say that you become a bad person when you're drunk.

Robinson says if you don't relate, count yourself lucky. The web page is meant to get a conversation going, and to stop people from making mistakes — some fatal — when they decide to drink alcohol.

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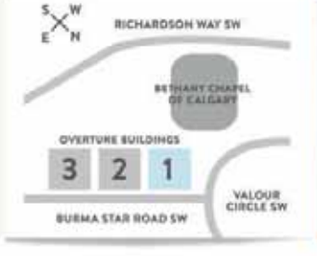

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University of Calgary bans racy team names

Not funny. Beats by Ray and other offensive intramural sports team names no longer allowed

JEREMY NOLAIS
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University of Calgary officials are banning intramural sports team names deemed offensive, sexist or that refer to the use of drugs and alcohol after concerns were raised by students, who say some of the monikers perpetuate rape culture on campus.

Lexi Narowski, a Faculty of Arts student representative, said a number of female learners brought forward concerns about a specific derogatory flag football team name concerning a woman's sexual promiscuity, which Metro has decided not to print.

Upon further investigation, she found other alarming examples in that single league of five teams, including: Beats by Ray, seemingly a nod to the former National Football League star who was seen on camera earlier this year knocking out his fiancée; Let Me See Your TDs and one other that is also being withheld.

"I just feel like jokes about domestic violence, domestic abuse are no laughing matter and shouldn't be allowed in a university environment," Narowski said. "This policy change … creates a more inclusive environment for all students to be a part of. I feel like that's what it's all about: Students are there to have fun and play the sports."

There were other names alluding to drug use that raised the eyebrows of campus recreation officials, including an indoor soccer team called Blaze It Like Beckham and another called Grassburners.

Don McSwiney, kinesiology department spokesperson, said Thursday that team names deemed offensive will be barred come the winter semester and there will be a formal complaint process for students offended by those that "slip through the cracks." He chalked up the names to an "oversight," and one that had never been pointed out by students previously.

"It might be creating a culture that we don't want to have associated with our activities, so we just thought we'd take the step right now and create some guidelines for names," McSwiney said.

U of C students were far from alone in choosing suggestive names for their teams. A quick survey of Mount Royal University intramural squads this fall turned up a dozen referencing genitalia or sexual promiscuity, including Easy Lay and Balls in Your Face.

But Chris Dawe, the university's director of recreation, said there is a formal screening process for team names.

"I haven't looked, specifically, at any of those team names for our group here, but our staff certainly have," he said.

Roughly 3,000 students participate in Mount Royal intramurals annually and twice as many at the U of C.

Students play soccer during a past intramural match at the University of Calgary. Some of the teams's names have been referring to smoking marijuana, sex and violence against women. The U of C is putting in place a new policy to try to prevent such names. Some students feel team names were perpetuating rape culture on campus. DAVID MOLL/UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY FILE

Suggestive intramural names

University of Calgary		Mount Royal University
• Ball hockey – Soft Dump in the Corner	• Indoor soccer – Blaze It Like Beckham	• Basketball – Easy Lay
• Basketball – Chocolate Thunder	• Outdoor soccer – 2 Goals 1 Cup	• Basketball – MHoa's Sweatshop Escapees
• Flag football – Beats by Ray	• Outdoor soccer – Grassburners	• Futsal – Poke My Balls
• Flag football – Let Me See Your TDs	• Volleyball – Just the Tip	• Volleyball – Balls in Your Face
• Bubble soccer – Ball Touchers	• Volleyball – Muffin Stuffers	

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Province sees fewest units created from feds' affordable housing fund

Different choices. Alberta has directed funds to 'more expensive' seniors housing, Quebec to broader 'housing benefit'

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Federal funding for affordable housing doled out to all provinces over the past three years has had the least direct impact in Alberta, according to a recent homelessness study, but the provincial government notes the initiative is just one of many it has underway.

From 2011 to March 2014, Alberta claimed $60.6 million under Ottawa's Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) initiative, resulting in 952 households being lifted out of "housing need."

That works out to $63,624 per household in Alberta, compared to an average of $3,900 per household nationwide.

But Trent Bancarz, a spokesperson for Alberta Seniors, which oversees housing, said it's not an apples-to-apples comparison, as the IAH money in this province has been primarily devoted to renovating and expanding seniors' lodges.

"A supportive housing unit for a senior is quite a bit more expensive than, say, an apartment unit would be," Bancarz said, noting that construction and renovation costs are typically higher in Alberta than other provinces, as well.

The province has augmented those federal funds with about $250 million of its own money for seniors housing, he added.

The IAH funds are used quite differently from province to province, according to The State of Homelessness in Canada 2014 report, published this week by a group of agencies from across the country.

Quebec, for example, used its share to support a "small but laudable housing benefit" paid monthly to low-income earners to help cover living expenses, according to the report.

In total, Quebec lifted 137,481 households out of need with $173.1-million in IAH funding, or $1,259 per household, and the report recommends a housing benefit on a national scale.

"The housing benefit we're talking about targets people in extreme low-income and extreme housing need," said Tim Richter, CEO of the Calgary-based Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, which helped produce the report.

Tim Richter, CEO of the Calgary-based Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, which helped produce the The State of Homelessness Report 2014 report published this week, says Canada needs a national "housing benefit," a monthly "cash payment to individuals in extreme housing need." METRO FILE

Coun. Brian Pincott, who chairs the Calgary Housing Company, said a policy like that would be helpful but, regardless of the exact mechanism, there needs to be more co-ordination between federal, provincial and municipal efforts to make housing more affordable.

"We need a very active partnership between all three orders of government with money from all three orders of government," he said. "It's not an active as it could be, or should be."

Apart from the IAH program, Bancarz said Alberta has invested about $1.2 billion since 2007 to create 12,000 affordable housing units across the province. Of those, about 7,600 have so far been completed and the rest are due to come on stream in the next two years, he said.

Just 200 units have been approved for development in the past two years, however, according to the latest annual report from Alberta Municipal Affairs.

By the provinces

This is how much it cost for every household lifted out of "housing need" through funds from the federal Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) agreement, which Alberta has chosen to target toward seniors:

- **Alberta:** $63,324
- **B.C.:** $34,665
- **Ontario:** $13,523
- **Quebec:** $1,259
- **National average:** $3,900

**** Source: The State of Homelessness in Canada 2014 report***

Wildrose municipal affairs critic Jeff Wilson said the province needs to better "target" its affordable housing investments to have the most impact in areas of greatest need, particularly urban centres.

"They've spent a pile of money on affordable housing but they've spread it a mile wide and an inch deep," he said.

Bancarz said Alberta has renewed its IAH agreement with the federal government, which will result in another $202 million more between now and 2019, and the intent is to continue directing those funds toward seniors' housing.

†Subject to credit approval. To be eligible, patients must complete the Custom LASIK procedure on both eyes by January 15, 2015. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. *Prices are subject to change without prior notice and vary based on prescription strength. Applicable on a procedure for both eyes only. Other conditions may apply.

Dr. Judy MacDonald, AHS medical officer for Calgary Zone, is repeating a common message: Get your flu shot. METRO FILE

Three people with flu have died: AHS

Health. Not clear if flu or other underlying health problems caused death

Three people in the province with lab-confirmed cases of the influenza virus have died, according to new data posted online by Alberta Health Services.

It's not clear whether the deaths were the result of influenza, AHS said. If the deceased had other underlying health problems, the virus could have worsened their conditions but not been the direct cause of death.

There is also the possibility that the influenza did not have anything to do with the deaths at all.

"Sometimes it's really hard to tell," said Dr. Judy MacDonald, medical officer of the AHS Calgary Zone. "People that have conditions like asthma or chronic disease, if they are immune compromised, then they may not do so well if they get influenza."

Due to privacy policies, no information about the patients' health can be released. Since Aug. 24, Alberta has had 30 lab-confirmed influenza cases, three of which are from Calgary.

MacDonald said there are simple ways to avoid the virus, the most important being to get vaccinated.

"That needs to be No. 1, but there are other ways," said MacDonald.

She suggests washing your hands frequently during the day, staying home if you're sick, and covering your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

AHS will update its website with influenza data weekly. More information on the virus can be found online at albertahealthservices.ca/influenza.

YASMIN JASWAL/FOR METRO

Vaccines

So far, 54,436 vaccines have been administered in Calgary. Vaccinations are still available at some clinics in the city. For more information, visit albertahealthservices.ca/influenza.

Report

Pilot error blamed for plane crash that killed brothers

A fatality inquiry report says a plane crash in central Alberta that killed two brothers from B.C. on their way to a wedding was caused by pilot error.

Dean Sorken, 44, of Abbotsford and 39-year-old Lee Sorken of Vernon died when their small single-engine plane went down near Bashaw in June 2011.

An investigator with the Transportation Safety Board testified at the inquiry that nothing was mechanically wrong with the plane.

The inquiry heard that Dean Sorken was at the controls in cloudy weather, even though his licence only allowed him to fly when he could see the ground and horizon.

Judge James Hunter says Sorken probably became disoriented in the clouds and couldn't correct when the plane went into an uncontrolled dive.

He says the pilot knew of the bad weather before the trip but was probably in a rush to get to a family wedding in Killam, Alta.

"His ultimate reason and decision for attempting this flight will never be known, although the need or want to get home for the family wedding undoubtedly played a major role," Hunter wrote.

The judge made no recommendations.

The Transportation Safety Board has yet to release its final report into the crash.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Legal aid. $5.5M boost means thousands more Albertans will qualify

Legal aid will be made available to thousands more Albertans this year with a $5.5-million funding boost announced Thursday by Justice Minister Jonathan Denis.

The money comes about two weeks after Denis and his counterparts from other provinces tried unsuccessfully at a conference in Banff to convince federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay to boost federal contributions for the jointly funded program that provides lawyers to the poorest of the poor.

Justice Minister Jonathan Denis speaks in Calgary on Thursday as Kevin Feth, president of the Law Society of Alberta, looks on. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

To be eligible for full legal representation, the maximum annual income for an individual in Alberta stood at $16,176, meaning those receiving Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) made too much money to qualify. The new funding will enable the income threshold to be boosted to $19,056 and make legal aid to AISH recipients, according to the provincial government.

"I would be much happier if the federal government would step up to the table but if they don't, we will," Denis told reporters.

Legal Aid Alberta chair Derek Cranna said it's impossible to say exactly how many more people will now qualify but, "for this calendar this year, a rough estimate would exceed 5,000 individuals."

Denis said his "intention" is that the additional funds would be made permanent in the next provincial budget.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Enmax. Union boss calls outsourcing of 38 jobs a 'huge loss' to community

Enmax's decision to outsource 38 jobs to India is going to be a "huge loss to our community," according to Marle Roberts, president of the Alberta Division of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

Roberts said the company has no reason to outsource the positions, and wants the publicly owned company to reverse its decision.

"Studies show that public sector jobs kept in-house provide more value at a cheaper cost over and over again," she said. Roberts added that this decision, which comes shortly after the news that Calgary contractors use temporary foreign workers to do park clean ups, gives Calgary a reputation of a city looking for low-wage workers. METRO

Former Calgary teacher worried about his safety

Jailed in Indonesia. Neil Bantleman has been detained without charges since July and worries he'll be targeted if moved to new prison

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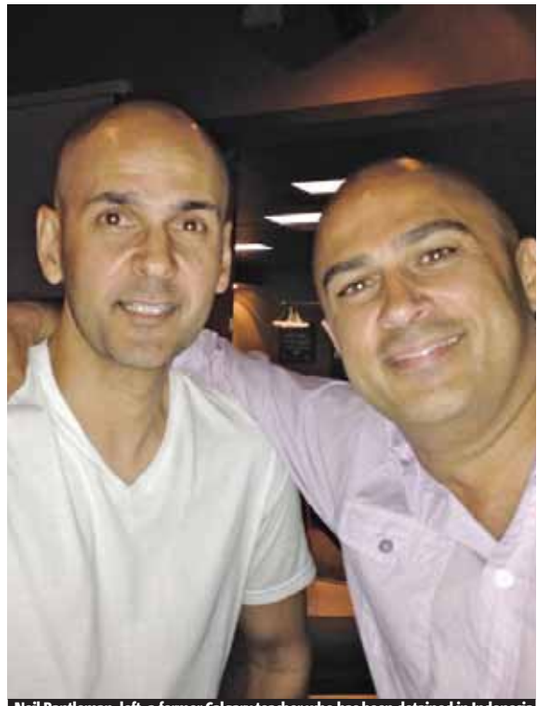
Neil Bantleman said Thursday from his Jakarta cell that he fears for his safety as Indonesian prosecutors prepare to lay sexual abuse charges against the former Calgary teacher.

"I would like to ask the government to assist me in any way possible as I have little confidence in the judicial system here and am very concerned about receiving a fair trial," Bantleman wrote in a message to Metro.

On Wednesday, his brother Guy Bantleman told reporters he's learned that a case police have said they're building against Neil has been turned over to prosecutors and it's likely charges would be laid by week's end.

Bantleman has adamantly denied accusations that he sexually abused kindergarten-aged children at the Jakarta International School, where he and his wife, Tracy, work. Both he and another teacher taken into custody at the same time in July have received support from thousands around the world.

Fears have also emerged that Bantleman will be transferred from a minimum-security cell in Jakarta to a maximum-security site that his brother Guy has said will be filled with gangsters, rapists and murderers.



Neil Bantleman, left, a former Calgary teacher who has been detained in Indonesia without charge since July, is seen with his brother Guy. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bantleman said in his messages he hadn't received formal word of a transfer, but fears the nature of the charges against him could make him a target.

"I am very concerned for my safety as we enter a new jail with horrible allegations placed against us," he said, referring to himself and fellow teacher Ferdinand Tijong.

Guy, meanwhile, has lobbied hard for assistance from Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs officials but said he's had little success.

Caitlin Workman, a spokesperson for the federal department, said in an emailed response issued to Metro early Thursday, "We are aware of the latest developments in this case and are monitoring the situation closely. Canadian consular officials are providing assistance as required, and remain in contact with the family."

Bantleman said his lawyers are still working on obtaining the evidence that Jakarta police intend to bring against him in court. The Wall Street Journal reported last month that leaked police reports contain allegations of underground rooms at the international school and victim claims that Bantleman conjured a "magic stone" to sedate his victims.

Both Bantleman and his many supporters, including senior staff at the Jakarta school, have said they believe mass hysteria has led the supposed child victims to create stories.

There had been hope that both Bantleman and Tijong would be released after 120 days spent behind bars, as Indonesian law states that's the maximum amount of time before charges can be laid. But now with formal allegations coming, the pair's release date has been thrown into doubt.

Still, Bantleman remained optimistic.

"I am OK, still fighting," he said, later adding, "I would just like to thank everyone for their continued support and love. Truth will prevail and it is my hope that this new government will step in and make a strong stand against injustice and corruption."

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Townhouse fire. No alarms in house; four escape

An early Thursday morning fire sent a family of four to hospital with visible signs of smoke inhalation.

The Calgary Fire Department responded just before 1 a.m. to a townhouse fire in the 4900 block of 35 Avenue SW.

Firefighters found two adults and two children outside on the front driveway, with smoke pouring out the front door.

A number of firefighters treated the family while the remainder of the crew worked on putting out the fire, which was confined to one room.

The investigation into how the blaze started is underway, but based on initial surveying it's clear there were no smoke alarms in the townhouse, according to the fire department. METRO

Reduce the risk

Having working smoke alarms reduces the risk of dying in a home fire by 50 per cent, Calgary fire officials said.

Land claim

Premier reboots talks with Lubicon

Alberta Premier Jim Prentice says he's rebooting talks with a northern aboriginal band that has been seeking a land claim for decades.

After meeting with the chief and council of the Lubicon Lake Cree in Little Buffalo, Prentice says a land settlement is a long-unfinished piece of business.

Prentice praised the recently elected chief and council, who treated him to a meal of moose nose stew.

The province is also opening talks on getting more Lubicon into the workforce and improving education for the band's children.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CALGARY, IT'S TIME TO DANCE LIKE NO ONE'S WATCHING

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

Earlier this week, I spotted a guy dancing at The Black Keys concert.

I was sitting in the same section as him. We were pretty far back — close enough to tell that the band was on stage, but far away enough that it really could have been anyone singing.

This guy stood out because, well, he literally stood out. Despite an entire section sitting down all around him, he stood and grooved to the entire concert. I'm sure the people directly behind him were annoyed, but he either didn't care or was too wrapped up in the concert to notice. Both of which are totally acceptable.

This guy did what so many of us have wanted to do at a concert here in Calgary, a city that can sometimes feel like the first three-quarters of Footloose.

Our struggle to boogie is well-documented — from artists complaining at Folk Fest to practically every concert I've ever been to.

A few months ago, I was at the Katy Perry concert. Beside me was an eight-year-old girl. Her mom had driven her up from Drumheller and it was her first concert. Her excitement to see Katy was palpable. She was refreshingly friendly for a kid and we had a great chat about which songs we were both excited to hear. When the concert finally started, I found myself watching the girl more than I was watching Katy Perry. Witnessing someone's first concert is amazing. And yes, as with almost everything that makes me feel any emotion, I started to tear up. This little girl was so excited. Too few of us truly get excited to see a concert. She reminded me of that.

About two songs in, you could tell that the girl really wanted to get up and dance. She kept looking around and trying to figure out why no one was dancing.

Chances are this girl had seen concert footage before, which would have likely given her the impression that people both dance and have fun at concerts, especially of the pop variety. But not always in Calgary, at least not right away. It's a cruel lesson for a child to figure out. At one point, she asked me why no one was dancing. Instead of uttering my typical answer, "'Cause it's Calgary, kid," I changed things up and instead got up on my feet and asked her to dance.

It seems like an important point to mention that the mom was totally cool with our interactions. She was a cool mom. This kid was lucky. So, while it took the rest of our section a while to mentally weigh the pros and cons of seeing strangers dance, this kid and I had the time of our lives. Which, at only eight years old, was a pretty easy mark to reach.

I admire the people who, despite the glares and wrath they might incur, stand up and dance anyway. I wish I did it more. Life's short. We should dance more.

Mike Morrison writes Mike's Bloggity Blog and tweets from @mikesbloggity

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Ghost-hunting duo hitting city's spookiest spots

Scott and Shelby Leroy have investigated the paranormal for years. The pair recently moved to Calgary and are hoping to take their gear to some of the city's most storied locales. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Who you gonna call?
Scott and Shelby Leroy seek out the spirit world

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

More online

For more on the investigations led by Scott and Shelby Leroy, head to 6feetunder.ca. The couple say you can also contact them on Facebook if you wish to request an investigation.

They head into the dark of night, in search of things you cannot see.

Armed with thousands of dollars worth of equipment, the goal is to make contact.

They claim it's happened many times before.

Scott Leroy says he's always been in tune with an energy he can't describe. Four or five years ago, he decided to put his intuition to the test in his Langley, B.C., home. He broke out a controversial Ouija board — some believe the device is hokey, others go so far as to suggest it allows spirits into a residence or to attach themselves to the board user.

After his first experiment, Leroy claims the TV in his home turned off and on without warning, he heard thumping on walls and awoke to find a person standing next to him on multiple occasions.

He was hooked.

"I just started loading up on ghost-hunting equipment," he said. A few digital recorders, a Spirit Box, something called a Mel Meter and much more. Oh, and he found a partner, Shelby.

She admits she was super skeptical at first, figuring Scott wanted to impress her with a dating experience that was a tad more eventful than a simple dinner and movie.

Then she started hearing the electronic voice phenomenon (EVP) that Scott was capturing on his voice recorder. Sometimes it's a faint or distorted noise, other times it comes through as though someone is talking next to you, she says.

"The findings are just, I don't know, it's crazy how much stuff we've actually got," Shelby said.

The pair recently moved to Calgary and Metro joined them for their first trek into some supposedly haunted southeast woods. For two hours the pair walked around using a recorder and P-SB7 Spirit Box, which cycles through radio stations at hyper-speed. The theory is spirits can manipulate the white noise generated by the scan; skeptics suggest the words captured are merely radio snippets emitted from a strong signal.

Both Scott and Shelby admit their first Calgary excursion was among the quieter ones.

Some of the sites they choose are generally considered off-limits to the public. The Leroys encountered a security guard on their first Calgary trek after crossing into ambiguous territory between a public park and private school.

The investigations can take hours and Scott says there's the potential for personal health impacts. He's not sure a spirit has ever attached itself to him, but he has felt sick and fatigued for days after a ghost hunt.

This photo was captured in a Nanaimo, B.C., home, where the Leroys spent a few days investigating. They say this photo taken from behind a friend shows a small boy in the beam of light. Do you seen him? COURTESY 6 FEET UNDER

Naturally skeptics come with the territory, but the Leroys don't seem bothered by those who think they're a tad loony or just have a really strange — and costly — hobby.

"I'm not going to try to convert anyone ... but it is out there and if you want to believe in it, feel free to," Shelby said. "If you don't want to, I'm sorry."

Tools of the trade

Equipment used by Scott and Shelby Leroy of 6 Feet Under:

- Digital recorder: The simplest tool in their arsenal. It's said that spirits use their energy to manipulate sound into a form that resembles a spoken voice. Voices are often not heard during the recording, but are audible when played back later. Researchers have established three classes of sound generated using the recorder. Class A voices are clear and easily understandable; Class B voices are fairly loud and clear and are sometimes audible without headphones; Class C voices are very soft and often indecipherable.
- P-SB7 Spirit Box: This device uses a modified AM-FM radio that constantly scans frequencies at a high rate of speed. It's said that spirits manipulate the white noise generated by the sweeps and use it to create words.
- Mel Meter 8704R: Measures both electromagnetic fields (EMFs) and temperature at the same time. The working theory is that spirits emit low EMFs that are followed by a significant temperature drop.
- KII Meter: A faster tool used to measure EMFs.
- REM Pod: A small pod with four lights on top that glow green, orange, blue and red. It uses a mini-telescopic antenna to emit its own EMF. That field can easily be influenced by spirits — a green light is the weakest form of interest while red is stronger.
- Green Laser Grid: A laser pointer that can be used to identify the shape of an anomaly and determine whether it actually has any mass. The laser is generally positioned in front of a camera and, if movement occurs, it will break the pattern of the laser. Researchers then go frame by frame to mark how the anomaly shifts.

ON THE TRAIL OF THE SUPERNATURAL

JEREMY NOLAIS
AND HELEN PIKE
calgary@metronews.ca

Was one excursion in some spooky woods enough to turn a pair of Metro reporters into believers in the supernatural?
ISTOCK

After journeying through the woods with ghost hunters Scott and Shelby Leroy, Metro reporters Helen Pike and Jeremy Nolais reflect on their first paranormal investigation.

Jeremy: So, I came into this not knowing what to think — and I scare easy. On the other hand, Helen declared herself as the absolute skeptic, hoping to be proven wrong. What did you think of our paranormal excursion?

Helen: I don't watch ghost shows, so I was pretty excited to go on this excursion and see what all the fuss was about. I went in skeptical, but hoping to be convinced. Now I can say I went on a ghost hunt, but am I a believer? Not in the slightest.

Jeremy: C'mon, I saw you jump a little at one point. I'm not sure I believe either but when we left that one wooded area, I swear I heard "Thank you" over Scott's spirit box. Did you hear it? How do you explain that, Miss Skeptic?

Helen: First off, it was a radio scanner. It flashed through stations (in reverse) at about a hundredth of a second. Now, Scott told us that we shouldn't be able to hear full words, but I've used scanners before and they tend to stick on strong signals. I heard the "Thank you," I won't deny it, but was it a ghost trying to reach out? I'm still not convinced.

Jeremy: And the "No trespass" right when we were near the "No Trespassing" sign. I believe I heard that before our esteemed investigators did. Seems highly coincidental, don't you think?

Helen: Sorry, are you hearing voices again? You should really go get that checked out. I didn't hear that at all, even on the replay. You said you weren't sure if the voice was saying "No trespass" or if it was just the power of suggestion. A lot of the words said were like that, and the investigators were hearing more than I could pick up. Is that because they have so much experience?

Jeremy: That could be because they more adamantly want to make contact, I'll concede. But with Shelby you have a pure skeptic who's now been totally convinced, claims to have seen a Febreze bottle fly across a room. What do you think? Is her partner Scott just a really good talker or is there something legitimate to convince her?

Helen: Sounds like product placement to me. Jokes aside, if there was more action I could've been converted. I'm a skeptic, not stubborn. They said it themselves — normally there's more action. Weird how when reporters show up ghosts get shy.

Jeremy: Maybe they know? Or am I turning a tad crazy now? I just wonder if it would have been different had we put Twitter away and kept absolutely quiet?

Helen: Do ghosts even know what Twitter is? We should've asked them.

Jeremy: Oh wait, we're not even sure we made contact. But seriously do you think people would dump thousands of dollars into devices if they got no results? I'm all for creative dating experiences, but this may be a little much. For one, it was freezing. I was the one that wanted to go home after two hours. They would have stayed out much, much longer.

Helen: A hobby is a hobby. If they have fun doing it, then why not? I wasn't about to follow them all night in that cold, especially since they weren't having much luck. They get a rush out of it — consider them spiritual thrill-seekers, if you will. But it's not my cup of tea, which is all I wanted after standing around in the dark for a couple of hours.

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Sugar-high. Dentist offers kids a chance to turn candy into cash

Ghosts, ghouls and gremlins are frightening, but the scariest part of Halloween may not be a monster at all — it's the bags and bags of candy.

Well, at least if you're a dentist. For the seventh year running, Evans Dental is hosting a Halloween candy buy-back to help curb the sugar-high kids and keep them healthy. The fun starts Nov. 1, at 11:30 a.m. at the Market Mall Professional Centre.

"Dr. Evans is a holistic dentist, so he's wanting to bring awareness to the amount of sugar that we are all eating." said Aaron Russell, in charge of marketing at the office. "It's about more than cavities, it's about the way that sugar affects our whole system."

For every pound of candy, kids are rewarded a shiny loonie, and given opportunities to win prizes. In past years, 200-250 families have attended and the office has collected about 1,300 lbs. of candy.

But what happens to the candy? Well, Russell carries it to the dumpster. Instead of donating the sweets, for every pound collected an equal amount will be donated to the Calgary Food Bank in apples, and not the candy kind. HELEN PIKE/METRO

Instead of suffering the candy-high hangover, kids gather at the Market Mall professional building to turn candy into cash. FACEBOOK

Mother Nature

Weather will be the big treat

Calgarians usually fear the weather on Halloween, but this year it looks like Mother Nature is giving the city a treat.

According to the Weather Network, Calgary will see sunny skies and a temperature of 15 C. The temperature will dip to 10 degrees in the evening with some clouds rolling in, but so far, there's no sign of snow in the forecast. METRO

What to do

Events

- Screamfest will be on until Nov. 1 at the Grandstand Building (20 Roundup Way SE). Doors open at 7 p.m., and tickets are $25.
- Cobb's Corn Maze (1500 84 St NE) will have its final Flashlight Nights and Freaky Fridays event on Oct. 31. The event runs from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. Tickets are $12.50 for adults and $11.50 for children and seniors. METRO

Cst. Jim Lebedeff wants kids to have fun and stay safe this Halloween. YASMIN JASWAL/FOR METRO

City cops offer tips for Halloween safety

Advice from Calgary's Partners for Safety.
Don't send your children out alone

YASMIN JASWAL
calgary@metronews.ca

Tonight's the night for little goblins, ghouls and witches to go door-to-door for delicious treats, and Calgary's Partners for Safety are reminding parents and children to stay safe while enjoying the night.

"We're working together to make Halloween evening safe for the children who will be out and about trick-or-treating throughout our communities," said fire spokesperson Carol Henke.

Police, fire and animal and bylaw services will be on patrol in residential areas during the evening to keep an eye on children and offer assistance to anyone who may need it.

Calgary Transit operators will also be available for assistance, and ask that any child in need of an adult stop an operator to ask for help.

Calgary's Partners for Safety started in 1995 with the Alberta Motor Association and UNICEF. In 1999, it expanded. Today, Calgary Police Services, Calgary Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, Calgary Animal and Bylaw Services, Calgary's Child Magazine and many others are all part of the initiative.

Precautions

There are many simple ways to keep your kids safe this Halloween. Here are some tips shared by Calgary's Partners for Safety:

- If your children are wearing masks, make sure they're able to see out of them. If possible, use make-up instead of a mask.
- Make sure your children are visible to motorists who may be driving through the area. Give them a flashlight to use when crossing streets or walking on the road.
- Tell your children to steer clear of homes that are not lit.
- Make sure you know where your child will be trick-or-treating, and how late they will be out.
- Don't send your children out alone. Make sure they are with a group of people, or go with them yourself.
- Go through your child's candy when they come back home to check for any unwrapped or tainted treats.

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Keys, please. New attainable home turned over to family

Calgary's Attainable Home Ownership program turned over keys to another new home on Thursday.

The program is run by the Attainable Homes Calgary Corporation (AHCC), a non-profit organization running under the City of Calgary. The goal of the organization is to make home ownership more realistic for all Calgarians.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi is a director of the organization, and was with Ward 6 Coun. Richard Pootmans to present the new homeowners with their keys.

"As the price of housing increases in our community, as the price of market rent increases in our community, giving people the opportunity to build their own equity is really important," Nenshi said.

AHCC partnered with Truman Homes to build this development, called Westbury Park. It's the 12th development the organization has been a part of building. The organization began selling homes in 2011, and to date, has sold more than 500. METRO

Ward 6 Coun. Richard Pootmans, left and Mayor Naheed Nenshi, far right, present a family with the keys to their new home. CONTRIBUTED

Colorado sgt. warns Alberta of pot perils

Bud talk in Banff. Would legalization weed out the black market?

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Albertans shouldn't be green with envy over Colorado's legalization of marijuana, a high-ranking law-enforcement officer from that state told a Banff conference Thursday.

Sgt. Jim Gerhardt, a drug agent operating out of Thornton, Colo., said the number of youth using marijuana recreationally is on the rise, the black-market supply of the drug may actually be expanding, and commercial providers are involved in a "parasitic" business model that relies on getting people addicted.

"What we've seen is the cons really outweigh the pros," Gerhardt said in an interview shortly before delivering the keynote address at the Evolution and Management of Marijuana Grow-ops, hosted at the Banff Centre.

He said one teenager in the state threw himself off a hotel balcony after eating a marijuana-infused cookie, while another user shot his wife after ingesting the drug and believing the world was about to end.

There are also lingering questions about the methods to test for drug-impaired drivers, although it's unclear if collisions related to use of marijuana have risen since the Jan. 1 legalization date.

"The incidents are just stacking up, left and right," Gerhardt said. "People are blowing up their homes doing butane hash-oil extraction. It's just kind of a free-for-all and we're not seeing any benefit from it. The taxes are underperforming … there's human lives being lost and I don't know what the dollar value you can put on those that makes it OK."

The cases described by Sgt. Jim Gerhardt have also been referenced by other law-enforcement officials sounding alarms at news conferences, but pro-pot advocates have pointed out that violent crime in Denver dropped over the first four months of the year — assaults, for example, declined 3.7 per cent.

Gerhardt, however, said he fears for Canada as it moves to a model that sees commercial supply of the drug in large greenhouses run by private corporations. Newly prescribed users of medicinal marijuana, which the courts have said the federal government must provide reasonable access to, can no longer grow plants in their own homes.

"We battle, I guess what you'd call 'Big Pot' in our state.… They send armies of lobbyists down to the capital every session.… It really doesn't end with marijuana," Gerhardt said. "The goal with a lot of these groups is that all recreational drugs will be available through some kind of a commercial setting."

But Stan Swiatek, founder and president of Airdrie-area Sundial Growers, deemed the investigator's remarks "absurd," and said Canada's new commercial approach "weeds out the black market, absolutely."

"Kids can get (marijuana) easier than they can a bottle of wine right now on the black market … so, how are we going to stop that? By arresting all these people? It hasn't worked to this point in time."

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Colorado Sgt. Jim Gerhardt addresses the crowd at a Banff conference concerning all things marijuana Thursday. COURTESY MIKE TUCKER

2 million hits. Video of dishevelled man playing street piano goes viral

All she knows is that his name is Ryan and he plays the piano like an angel.

Roslyn Polard was on her way home from a work meeting last week in downtown Edmonton when she heard beautiful music and turned to see a dishevelled man hunched over a battered street piano.

The melody carried her, smiling, across the street. Then she suddenly stopped.

"I thought, no, I've got to go back. I've got to listen to that.… It was absolutely beautiful."

The federal government worker approached the man, dressed in sweat pants and a dirty jacket, and who had a mop of dark hair. She said he was glad to meet her, happy to have an audience.

He played another song that he told her he'd written himself, then a few more. Polard pulled out her cellphone and pushed record.

"There were three other ladies who ended up stopping. They all had tears in their eyes," Polard said.

"I didn't know if my camera would capture that emotion, but clearly it did."

Polard posted the two-minute video on Facebook and, after much insistence, on YouTube, where it had attracted nearly two million hits by Thursday afternoon.

Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson highlighted the video on Twitter. The YouTube version now has ads attached and is making money that Polard wants to give to the piano prodigy. But she hasn't seen him since that amazing outdoor concert.

Some people have posted other videos of the same man playing piano. Some say they believe he has been homeless for years.

One woman who contacted Polard on Facebook described how she sat and talked with the man for an hour one day. Samantha McLeod said she learned that he lost his wife and daughter in a car accident and taught himself to play.

"He's a really nice guy," said McLeod. "Broken, but so nice."

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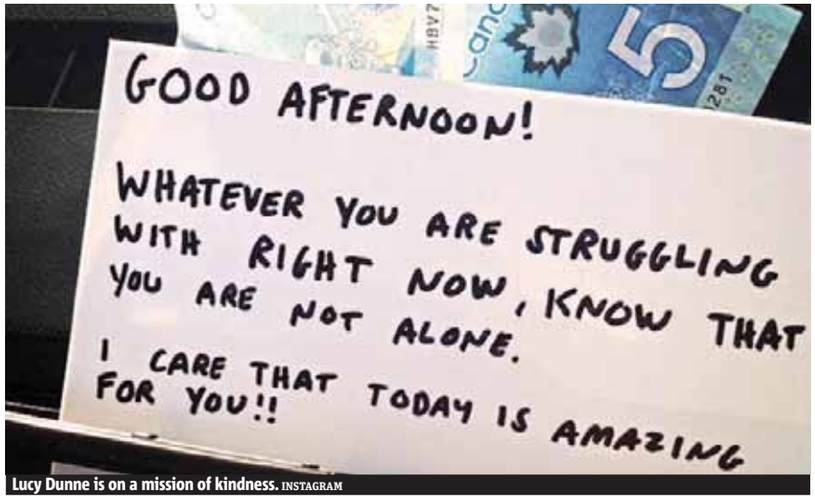
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Lucy Dunne is on a mission of kindness. INSTAGRAM

Kind stranger seeks to brighten your day

One act at a time. Lucy Dunne, a do-gooder in Calgary, is on a mission to complete 40 acts of kindness for 40 days

HELEN PIKE
helen.pike@metronews.ca

Actions speak louder than words, and sometimes small things like holding the door for someone or paying it forward can make that person's day.

"I've fed the homeless, I've left movie tickets on the Cineplex booth, I've left popcorn on one of those red box rental things, I've left money on people's windshields." said Lucy Dunne, a do-gooder in Calgary with a mission to brighten people's days.

"Some of them I have just left them a note that says: 'This is a random act of kindness, enjoy your day.'"

Forty days, 40 favours, that's Dunne's goal. She said it's a big commitment, much more work than she's done before when donating money to charities.

With her full-time job, she sometimes doesn't have time to do a task a day, but she's only counting the days she's done good as part of the project.

"The people that I've done things for have been really surprised, or really shocked," said Dunne. "That's kind of my biggest thing, this shouldn't be something that's shocking, people should just be doing this more often."

So far her favourite act of kindness was playing bingo at a seniors' home.

"To see their faces light up when they have these events that they put on and to be able to help with that and be involved with that … it really is life-changing … it's just really been eye-opening for me."

Dunne is posting some of her generous endeavours on her Instagram account to inspire others.

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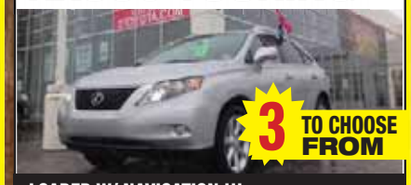

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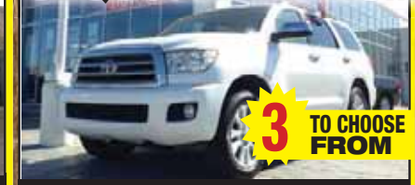

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CBC execs mum on Ghomeshi

Jian Ghomeshi arrives on the green carpet for the Juno Gala in Winnipeg on March 29. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Staying silent. How much did they know? Head honchos refuse to speak publicly about allegations of violence

Top brass at the CBC are silent on what they knew, and when, about allegations of violence and sexual harassment against disgraced radio host Jian Ghomeshi.

President Hubert Lacroix, executive vice-president of English services Heather Conway and head of radio Chris Boyce did not return multiple requests for comment on Thursday, the same day the CBC told staff it was hiring an external firm to investigate allegations against Ghomeshi within the firm and offering counselling.

"Given that these matters are now before the courts and the grievance arbitration process, we will be limited in our communications," CBC spokesman Chuck Thompson said in an email to Torstar News Service.

"We look forward to the opportunity to fully disclose the facts of these matters. We are extremely confident that CBC will be seen to have acted very quickly when we concluded that we could not continue our employment relationship with Jian Ghomeshi.... We believe that the information will demonstrate that the CBC acted as a prudent and responsible employer."

While CBC executives have not spoken publicly, they are communicating with staff about the Ghomeshi allegations. In a memo announcing the third-party investigation and counselling, Conway called Torstar and CBC reports "extremely disturbing and of great concern to all of us."

She praised the "professionalism" of staff and reminded them that while they are not prevented from responding to reporters' questions, they should not feel obligated.

It isn't just current CBC managers staying mum. Kirstine Stewart, in charge of English services from 2011 to 2013, told Torstar in a tweet to contact the site's PR department, which did not return a request for comment.

CBC's union

The union representing CBC employees is also keeping a tight lid on information, after it announced Wednesday that one CBC employee who spoke with Torstar did not report her allegations to a union representative, but rather a colleague who was a union volunteer.

- The union said this person was not given the details the woman shared with Torstar.

Only Richard Stursberg, executive vice-president of English services from 2004 to 2010, talked to Torstar. He was in charge in 2007, when Q was born.

"There was never any conversation or indication at the time that there was anything problematic about his behaviour," said Stursberg.

"I was saddened for the CBC, I was saddened for Jian's career, and sad for the women ..." said Stursberg on the allegations.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jian Ghomeshi dumped by crisis communications firm

Last week, Jian Ghomeshi was a media star, now he's waging the public opinion war solo: Both his crisis communications firm and traditional public relations firm severed ties with the former Q star Thursday.

Ghomeshi's previous Facebook post, published pre-emptive of the initial allegations, claimed CBC fired him only for having kinky sex and blamed a "jilted" ex for orchestrating a campaign against him. The post is widely suspected to have been done with the help of Navigator, the high-stakes public strategy and communications firm he hired, which is known for representing high-profile clients in serious trouble, including former prime minister Brian Mulroney in the Airbus scandal.

However, Navigator announced late Thursday it is no longer representing Ghomeshi.

"In response to numerous media requests, Navigator confirms it does not advise Jian Ghomeshi. Regrettably, the circumstances of our engagement have changed and we are no longer able to continue," the company said in a statement.

Rock-it Promotions, which had a longstanding PR relationship with Ghomeshi, announced it also had severed ties with him.

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Feds unveil family tax credits, benefits

Families first.
Conservatives' taxation and child-care pledge aims to put more money in Canadians' pockets, Harper says

Prime Minister Stephen Harper does arts and crafts with a student at the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan, Ont., on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is pressing ahead with income splitting for families with kids under 18 — a multibillion-dollar election promise from 2011 that critics have said would benefit too few Canadians.

To address that complaint, the Conservative government is also boosting the universal child-care benefit — $160 a month for kids under six, up from $100, plus a new monthly benefit of $60 for children aged six through 17, effective in 2015.

"Our goal has always been to make sure that Canada is the best country in the world in which to raise a family," said Harper during a campaign-style event in Vaughan, Ont.

"Our government is utterly convinced of one thing: When it comes to the cost of raising a family, Canada's moms and dads deserve all of the help that we can give them."

The government is also adding $1,000 to the various limits on the child-care expense deduction, which allows taxpayers to claim child-care expenses incurred in order to work or go to school. This measure carries an estimated cost of $15 million in 2014-15 and $65 million in 2015-16.

Harper repeatedly hammered home the message that the entire suite of measures would benefit all Canadian families with children.

And he acknowledged the whopping price tag, which he said the government would well be able to afford.

"At the same time, we're doing this in a way that ensures that the things we promised in the last election will actually reach people in the life of this Parliament." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Family Tax Cut

The Conservative government's Family Tax Cut will allow eligible taxpayers to transfer up to $50,000 of income to his or her spouse for tax purposes.

- **Annual credit.** Under the government's plan a non-refundable tax credit of $2,000 can be collected.
- **Cash for families.** Aside from income splitting, the government's pledges to also increase the monthly child-care benefit to $160 for children under the age of six and introduce a $60 monthly benefit to families with children aged six to 17 will further help parents.
- **Stephen Harper.** "Under the plan we announced today, every single Canadian family with children will benefit. Everyone will have more money in their pockets."
- **Total costs.** The prime minister said the government's measures will cost $3.1 billion in 2014-15 and $4.5 billion in 2015-16.

Locking up style at prison

In this photo, taken Monday, a model waits to walk on a runway before a show in Neve Tirza prison for women in Ramle, central Israel. Prisoners studying makeup application or hairdressing at the jail joined in to style the models. ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-prostitution bill

Liberal senator to propose changes

A Liberal senator will propose amendments to the Conservative government's anti-prostitution bill as the clock ticks down on a court-imposed deadline.

Liberal Sen. George Baker said Thursday he intends to introduce 15 amendments during that debate, all seeking to remove provisions that criminalize any who sells sex.

The Conservative government wants to get the bill through the legislature by mid-November, so it can get royal assent and become law by December. That would meet the deadline imposed by the Supreme Court of Canada, which deemed existing laws unconstitutional last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RCMP requests for telecom data poorly tracked

Annual report. Daniel Therrien says he couldn't tell how often the Mounties collected subscriber data without a warrant

Privacy watchdog Daniel Therrien
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The privacy watchdog is calling on federal authorities to keep better track of informal requests to telecommunications companies for subscriber data after finding shoddy record-keeping at the RCMP.

In his annual report tabled Thursday, privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien said shortcomings in the RCMP's information management systems meant he was unable to tell whether proper controls were in place.

It was impossible to determine how often the Mounties collected subscriber data without a warrant, Therrien said. As a result, his office could not assess whether such requests were justified.

Privacy and civil liberties advocates have raised concerns about the ability of police and intelligence agencies to gain access to details of the public's online activities, particularly given revelations about widespread surveillance by government agencies. People understand that law-enforcement and national security agencies have legitimate need to collect personal details, Therrien said.

The Mounties have agreed to bring in a system to monitor and report on warrantless requests. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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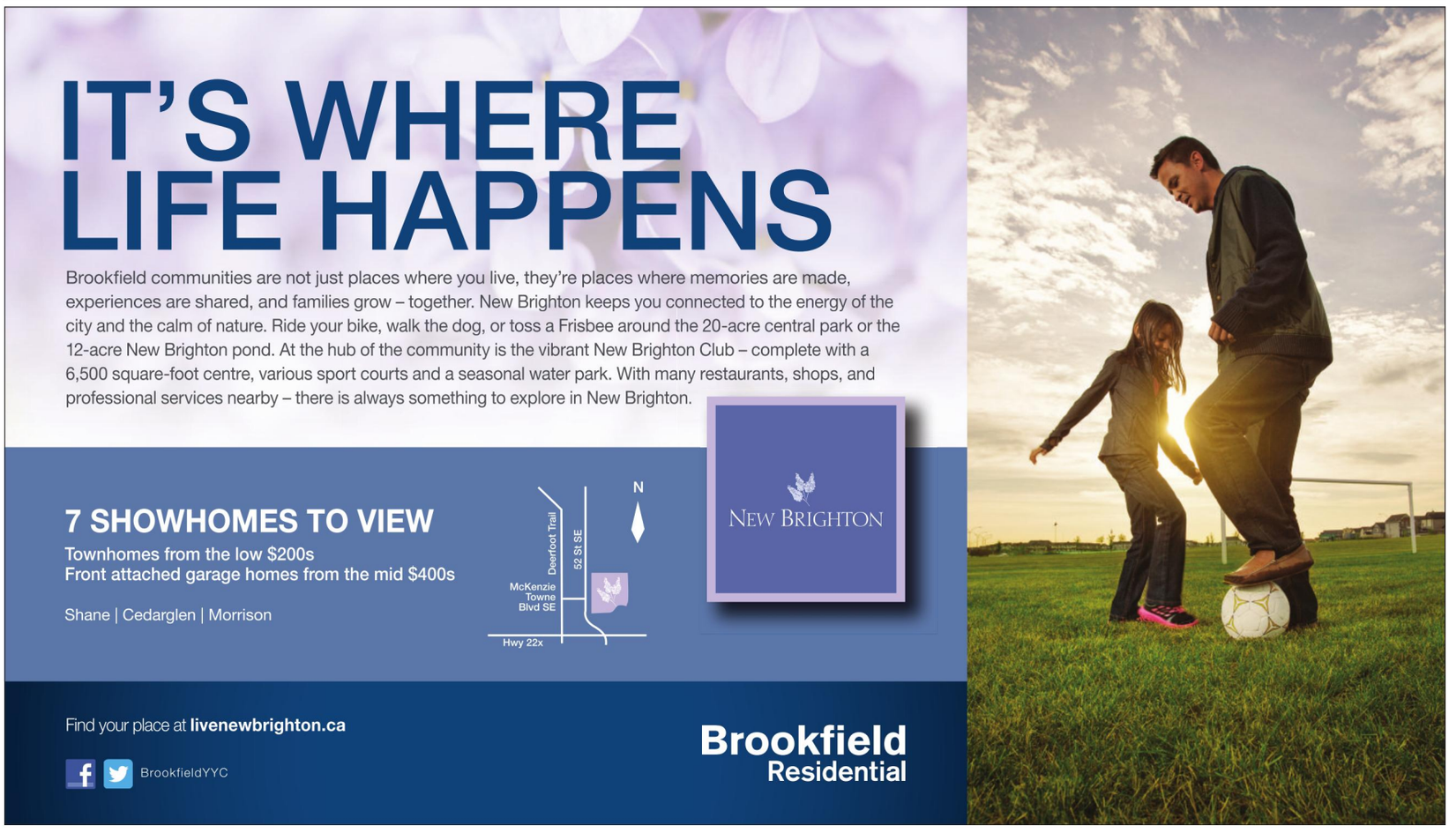
Governor General and his wife pay respects

Gov. Gen. David Johnston and his wife, Sharon, pay their respects at the National War Memorial shortly after the honour guard took up their posts on Thursday, in Ottawa. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS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Moncton murderer may face precedent-setting sentence

Justin Bourque. Crown seeking maximum sentence — 75 years without eligibility to apply for parole

Justin Bourque is depicted in an artist's sketch at his sentencing hearing at Moncton Law Courts in Moncton, N.B., on Tuesday. CAROL TAYLOR/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Justin Bourque's killing of three Mounties has been described in court as one of the worst crimes in Canadian history, prompting recommendations from Crown and defence lawyers for the harshest sentence in more than 50 years.

Judge David Smith, chief justice of the Court of Queen's Bench in New Brunswick, is scheduled to sentence the 24-year-old Friday, four months after Bourque used a semi-automatic rifle to fatally shoot three officers and wound two others in Moncton's north end.

Bourque pleaded guilty in August to three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

The Crown is seeking the maximum sentence — 75 years without eligibility to apply for parole — under a section of the Criminal Code that was amended in 2011. Prior to that, Bourque would have been handed an automatic life sentence with no chance at parole for 25 years, the mandatory penalty for one or more convictions of first-degree murder.

Earlier this week, defence lawyer David Lutz said his client, having admitted to the crimes in a detailed, three-hour statement to police, has argued that a 50-year parole ineligibility period would be fair. Lutz had little else to say on his client's behalf, except that Bourque has a defective thought process and inadequate social skills.

If Smith accepts either the Crown or defence recommendations, the sentence would be the harshest since Canada's last executions in 1962.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jack-o-Protest on Parliament Hill

Outside the Prime Minister's Office, volunteers with Ecology Ottawa show off their Halloween protest pumpkins as they flank Cameron Fenton, a "Canadian tar sands organizer," with 350.org (Fenton holds a pumpkin carved with the words "No Energy East," the same message spelled out in the individual pumpkins). The group opposes a plan by TransCanada to send oil by pipeline from Western Canada to reception points in Eastern Canada. New segments of the pipeline will have to be added. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO IN OTTAWA

Health spending increase smallest in 17 years

A new report says Canada will pay only $61 more per person this year for health care compared to last year's expenditures.

The report says the increase in health spending was the lowest in 17 years and amounts to only a 2.1 per cent rise.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information says Canada is expected to spend just under $215 billion this year on health care, which works out to $6,045 per person.

That spending level puts Canada eighth among the countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the OECD.

Health-care spending

$63.5B

Hospitals make up about 30 per cent of health-care spending, $63.5 billion.

The three territories, which often have to fly residents south for medical care, spend substantially more per person than provinces do.

Nunavut will spend the most, at just over $13,160 a person, while Quebec is expected to spend the least, at $5,616.

The public purse picks up about 70 per cent of the cost of health care in Canada. The remaining 30 per cent comes from out-of-pocket payments by individuals and private health insurance. That 70-30 cost breakdown has been relatively constant over the past 20 years, the report says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Maine nurse defies Ebola quarantine

Health. Kaci Hickox, who spent time treating patients in Sierra Leone, was the first forced into New Jersey's mandatory quarantine

A nurse who vowed to defy Maine's voluntary quarantine for health-care workers who treated Ebola patients followed through on her promise Thursday, leaving her home for an hour-long bike ride.

Kaci Hickox and her boyfriend stepped out of their home Thursday and rode away on mountain bikes, followed by a state police cruiser.

It was the second time Hickox broke quarantine. She left her home Wednesday evening briefly to speak to reporters, even shaking a hand that was offered to her.

Hickox contends there's no need for quarantine because she's showing no symptoms. She's also tested negative for the deadly disease.

"I really hope that we can work things out amicably and continue to negotiate," she said Thursday morning while riding on a dirt trail. There was no immediate comment from state health officials, who were going to court to detain Hickox for the remainder of the 21-day incubation period for Ebola that ends on Nov. 10.

"There's a lot of misinformation about how Ebola is transmitted, and I can understand why people are frightened. But their fear is not based on medical facts," Norman Siegel, one of her attorneys, said Wednesday.

Nurse Kaci Hickox leaves her home on a rural road in Fort Kent, Maine, for a bike ride with her boyfriend on Thursday. ROBERT F. BUKATY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Legality and guidelines

Generally, U.S. states have broad authority when it comes to such matters. But Maine health officials could have a tough time convincing a judge that Hickox poses a threat, said attorney Jackie L. Caynon III, who specializes in health law in Worcester, Mass.

- Guidelines from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend daily monitoring for health-care workers like Hickox who have come into contact with Ebola patients. But some states like Maine are going above and beyond those guidelines.

Hickox, who treated Ebola patients while volunteering in Sierra Leone with Doctors Without Borders, was the first person forced into New Jersey's mandatory quarantine for people arriving at the Newark airport from three West African countries. Hickox spent the weekend in a tent in New Jersey before travelling to the home of her boyfriend.

State law allows a judge to grant temporary custody of someone if health officials demonstrate "a clear and immediate public health threat." The state's court filing was expected Thursday, officials said.

If a judge grants the request, Hickox will appeal the decision on constitutional grounds, necessitating a hearing, Siegel said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea to crack down on tourists over fears of Ebola virus

North Korea announced Thursday it will quarantine foreigners entering the country for 21 days over fears of the spread of the Ebola virus, even though no cases of the disease have been reported anywhere in Asia, and very few foreigners are allowed to enter.

North Korea is always on guard against outside influences, but now, its anxiety has reached a new level. It has banned tourists, put business groups on hold and is looking even more suspiciously than usual at every foreign face.

Case in point: When a high-level delegation from Japan arrived in Pyongyang this week, two of the first people they met were dressed in full hazmat gear. The steps also send a message to the North Korean people to be very afraid of the outside world and of outside influences. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2018 World Cup. FIFA regrets video that shows Crimea part of Russia

FIFA has expressed regret on Thursday after its video launching the logo for the 2018 World Cup showed the disputed Crimean peninsula as part of Russia.

The video, broadcast as the logo was beamed onto Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre on Tuesday, included a map of host nation Russia, including Crimea.

Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula in March to fierce opposition from many Western governments. The Ukrainian government still claims Crimea as part of its territory.

The original video has been removed from FIFA's YouTube channel and replaced with an edited version excluding the two-second sequence in which the map of Russia was shown.

The video angered some Ukrainian commentators.

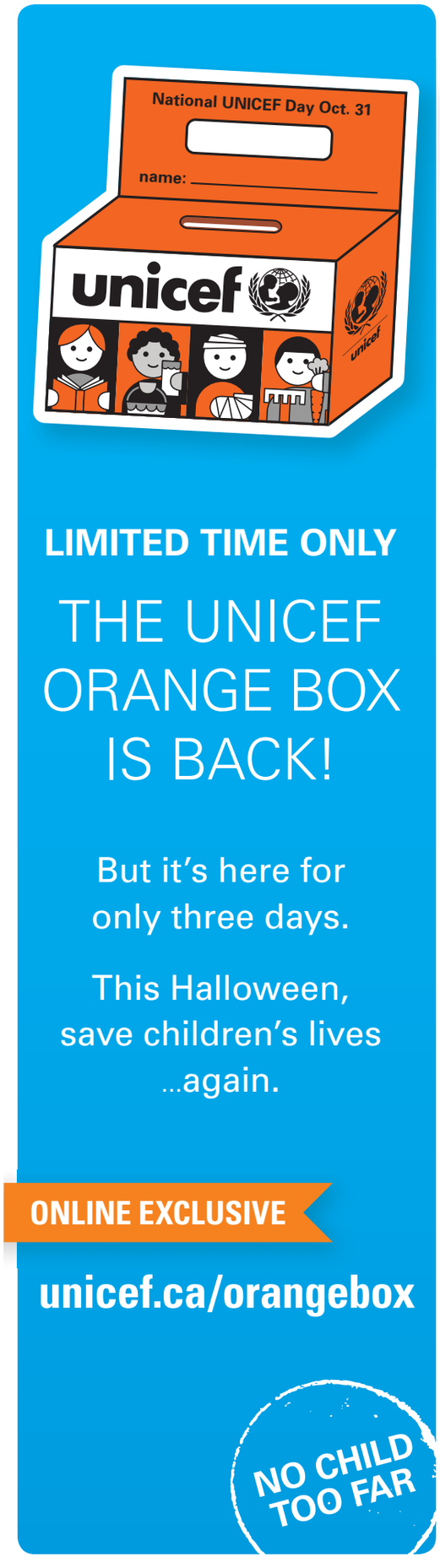
Markiyan Lubkivskiy, who directed Ukraine's preparations to host Euro 2012 and is now an adviser to the head of the Ukrainian security services, called for legal action in an online post and suggested the video could aid the cause of pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine. "Lawyers, get ready," he wrote. "If we don't react toughly to things like this, then soon nothing will be left of us." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online deals

Philly police turn department lobby, parking lot into 'safe zone' for online transactions

A police department in suburban Philadelphia has created a "safe zone" for people to complete transactions they arranged online.

The Conshohocken Police Department said individuals making purchases through Craigslist and other sites are free to complete deals in the department's lobby or parking lot. The idea for the safe zone came after an officer said his wife told him she was going to another person's house to complete an online purchase. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Double-double, toil and trouble for Tim Hortons?

Report. Takeover by Burger King could have some scary consequences, such as massive layoffs

Tim Hortons' takeover by Burger King's parent company may prove stale for Canadians. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Widespread layoffs and strict cost-cutting measures could befall Tim Hortons if Burger King's parent company takes over the chain, says a study from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

The left-leaning think-tank released a scathing review of 3G Capital's past takeovers on Thursday and concluded that the Brazilian private equity firm's track record is predictive of "overwhelmingly negative consequences for Canadians" and the Tim Hortons restaurant chain.

"Without additional strong assurances from 3G Capital that no jobs will be lost ... this may not be in the net benefit of Canada," said CCPA senior economist David Macdonald, who was involved in the preparation of the report.

The policy centre said 3G Capital hasn't made a suitable case for how the merged company benefits Canadians and it's urging the federal government to demand "a better deal" before it approves the transaction.

Included in its analysis is the assumption that the investment company, in its $11-billion US takeover of the Canadian company, would follow a similar playbook to past takeovers.

The report suggests 3G Capital's debt financing could force Tim Hortons to lay off more than 700 employees — or 44 per cent of staff working outside its restaurants — as its tries to manage the debt of the merged company.

In response to the study, Tim Hortons spokesman Scott Bonikowsky said the merged company intends to keep the Tim Hortons brand independent of its owner and maintain "traditional levels of community support, restaurant-level jobs and franchisee relationships."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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TSX 14,458.69 (-68.88)

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Natural gas: $3.86 US (no change)
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TV, mobile content

Rogers teams up with Vice Media to target millennials

Rogers Communications is teaming with pugnacious cultural magazine and digital outlet Vice Media in a $100-million joint venture that will launch a new TV channel and open a production studio in downtown Toronto.

The partnership between Montreal-created Vice and Canadian media giant Rogers will begin next year with the Vice TV Network in Canada and a digital distribution model that will let Rogers chase the 18- to 34-year-old demographic with mobile content. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HBO's scripted library

Don't Curb Your Enthusiasm ... Bell starts a video streaming service

Bell Media is launching a new video streaming service that will include the entire HBO scripted library.

The company says the subscription service, codenamed Project Latte, will feature premium programming, including The Sopranos, The Wire and Curb Your Enthusiasm.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Apple CEO Tim Cook smashes the glass closet

Apple CEO Tim Cook says he's proud to be gay.

The public declaration, in an essay written for Bloomberg Businessweek, makes Cook the highest-profile business CEO to come out as gay.

Cook said that while he never denied his sexuality, he never publicly acknowledged it, either. The executive said that for years he's been open with many people about his sexual orientation and that plenty of his Apple colleagues know he is gay.

Apple CEO Tim Cook GETTY IMAGES FILE

Cook wrote in the column, published Thursday, that it wasn't an easy choice to publicly disclose that he is gay, but that he felt the acknowledgement could help others.

"I've come to realize that my desire for personal privacy has been holding me back from doing something more important," he wrote.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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1 1,000 Ways To Be A Family. An inspiring section on the Canadian blog TheNewFamily.com, The 1,000 Families Project, looks at all the different variations on modern family life. Among the range of first-person stories is a recent entry from blog founder Brandie Weikle about her own "conscious uncoupling" with her ex long before Gwyneth Paltrow made the term infamous. Must read.

2 CDN vs American Beer. A Buzzfeed video has generated more than 370,000 views since being posted regarding a Canadian beer versus American beer taste test. In other words, more than 370,000 people have wasted time watching a video when everyone knows Canadian beer is the best and American beer sucks and tastes like water, eh?

3 Strombo & Kypreos. The pairing of George Stroumboulopoulos and Nick Kypreos is still getting mixed reaction a few weeks after the launch of the new Hockey Night In Canada. On their own, great. But their chemistry together? A tad awkward. This Hour Has 22 Minutes did a hilarious spoof recently showing Strombo on the set in his skinny jeans Instagramming selfies of himself with Kipper. Brilliant.

4 Kim Loves BlackBerry. Kim Kardashian West revealed this week that she is hoarding BlackBerry Bold phones out of fear that they will be discontinued, as she loves the keyboard for typing. "I love a BlackBerry, and every time I say that, people are horrified that I have a BlackBerry, and I don't understand that reaction." I have a BlackBerry, too, Kim, and get the same puzzled looks.

5 Robbie Williams. The singer decided to live-blog the birth of his second daughter with wife Ayda in Twitter pictures and YouTube videos. This was so wrong on so many levels, but yet you couldn't help but look. Because this is the age we live in where nothing is private. Luckily, the "coverage" concluded just before she went into labour.

6 Extra Hour Sleep! You might not have heard yet — so you can thank me — but this weekend Daylight Savings Time ends. Which means your clocks go back an hour. Which means you get a whole extra hour's sleep. Well, unless you're a parent with young kids. D'oh.

7 Halloween. The Boston Bruins have an amazing annual Halloween tradition where they visit Boston Children's Hospital. On Monday, they did again — dressing as characters from Disney's hit film Frozen. They even did renditions of Let It Go, which while not pretty were all great fun. Kudos.

8 #iBelieveThem. With more and more women coming forward about alleged assaults from Jian Ghomeshi, a tremendous show of support was displayed for these women on social media by people tweeting using the hashtags #iBelieveHer and #iBelieveThem in reference to the victims. As well, Jian's initial "defense" FB post has seen its popularity plummet with people unliking it in droves.

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SCREENGRAB

Brett Domino is a talented and humble man. Talented because he can write a damn catchy pop tune, chops he showed off in an earlier video that boasted how easy it was to write a summer pop song. Humble because he thinks us regular folk can do it, too. Domino is back to rub it in our faces again, this time to show us how quickly he can whip up a Halloween pop jam. He tries to make it seem spookily simple. But really, he's just terrifyingly talented. (Brett Domino/YouTube)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A woman claims to have captured paranormal audio in a historic building. Tell us a supernatural tale in 140 characters or less.

@DDGstyle: once upon a time there was a world where members of a rich, educated society valued science and rationality

@Canucklehead: I awoke to it in a daze. "Daddy," the small voice says from just outside my bedroom door, "Can I sleep with you?" I live alone.

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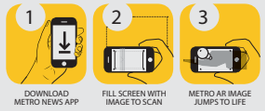

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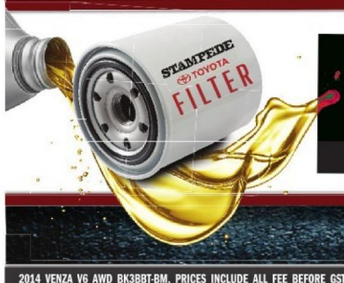

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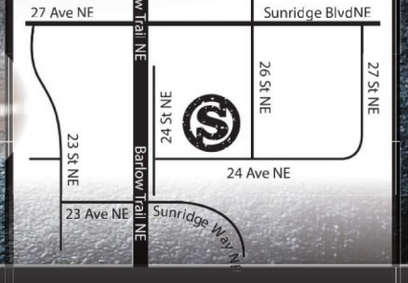

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Examining the night within us

Movies. As Maps to the Stars opens, Metro's Richard Crouse takes a look at director David Cronenberg's darkest works

Maps to the Stars opens in theatres this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Hollywood — self-obsessed child that it is — enjoys turning the camera on itself, but with Maps to the Stars, director David Cronenberg uses the city as a palette to paint a picture of the stupid, venal and stratospherically self-involved behaviour that goes on behind the scenes in Beverly Hills's gated communities and back lots.

At the centre of the film are the Weisses, a Hollywood family (John Cusack, Olivia Williams and Evan Bird) with more secrets than TMZ's too-hot-to-handle file, Havana Segrand (Julianne Moore), a former big name actress who is now as messed up as she is washed up and Agatha (Mia Wasikowska), a burn victim with schizophrenia whose presence threatens to expose closely guarded secrets.

This may be the most sun-dappled film Cronenberg has ever made, but don't let the light fool you; it's also one of his darkest.

I say one of his darkest because the 71-year-old director has frequently visited what Victor Hugo called "night within us," provoking Village Voice to call him, "the most audacious and challenging narrative director in the English-speaking world."

Spider, a trip into the mind of a severely mentally disturbed man starring Ralph Fiennes, is a case in point. Called "Cronenberg's most depressingly bleak film," by critic Ken Hanke, the 2002 film sees Fiennes deliver a virtually dialogue-free performance as the title character. But it is Miranda Richardson as several characters — all the women in Spider's life — who really steals the show. It's a spooky, cerebral thriller.

The Brood is probably Cronenberg's most traditional horror film. Featuring murderous psychoplasmic kids, experimental psychotherapist Oliver Reed and Samantha Eggar as a fetus-licking mother, it is the very stuff that nightmares are made of. It's lesser seen than The Fly or Dead Zone and way more down-and-dirty, but for sheer scares it's hard to beat.

A Dangerous Mind, the tautly told story of two psychoanalysts you've heard of, Dr. Carl Jung (Michael Fassbender) and Sigmund Freud (Viggo Mortensen), plus one you've probably never heard of, Sabina Spielrein (Keira Knightley), sees Cronenberg combine a love story and birth of modern analysis.

The almost total lack of physical action means the focus is on the words. Some will see a film rich with dialogue, others will see it as verbose. But that's the kind of duality the movie explores.

Finally, in Cosmopolis, Cronenberg takes us along for an existential road trip through the breakdown of modern society. Based on a novel by Don DeLillo and starring Robert Pattinson as a controlling and self-destructive billionaire money manager, the movie covers the gamut of human experience, from haircuts, money and infidelity to asymmetrical prostates and mortality.

In Review

RICHARD CROUSE

Maps to the Stars

Director. David Cronenberg

Stars. Julianne Moore, John Cusack, Robert Pattinson, Mia Wasikowska

●●●●○

Hollywood points the camera on itself but not since The Player has the selfie provided such a wonderfully sadistic portrait of Tinsel Town. At the centre of David Cronenberg's film is a Hollywood family — played by John Cusack, Olivia Williams and Evan Bird. Orbiting them are a former big name actress (Julianne Moore) and a burn victim (Mia Wasikowska), whose presence threatens to expose closely guarded secrets. The terrific performances and decidedly un-Hollywood feel of this, the most Hollywood of Cronenberg's films, make Maps a compelling psychological thriller.

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Nightcrawling with Rene Russo

Q&A. Self-confirmed night owl confronts the morality of paparazzi crossing privacy boundaries — on and off the screen

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

What's Rene Russo been up to lately? Staying up late, avoiding restaurants that tip-off TMZ and worrying about drones. So you know, the usual.

In Nightcrawler, written and directed by her husband Dan Gilroy, Russo stars as a tough but desperate news director at a failing L.A. station who turns to a freelance videographer (Jake Gyllenhaal) for some sensational footage.

At what point did Dan first tell you about this idea?
A long time ago he told me about it. He came home one day and told me about nightcrawlers. I had no idea.

I have a friend and I'm a night person, and I'll be out at 2 o'clock in the morning. So now I'm looking around me going, "Whoa, is that a nightcrawler?"

You have a habit of going out late at night?
Nighttime for me is really magical. I love the night. I'll just go out into my back yard and look at the moon at night. I've seen some beautiful moonsets.

I've kind of gotten into the bad habit (of staying up until 3 or 4. If I have to start working like I've been working, then I'm up at 4. So that's always lovely, to try to turn my clock around.

But you know what? I'm in love with the moon, what can I say? I'm a moon girl.

I appreciate a movie that doesn't judge its characters and lets you make up your own mind.
Exactly! What's really interesting about this movie is, depending on, sometimes, gender or age, you'll look at this movie differently.

Young people that haven't lived enough to cross as many moral boundaries are like, "Wow, that's f—ed up."

I'm like, "OK, let me check back with you in 40 years. You need to get back in the oven and cook a little bit."

Rene Russo and Jake Gyllenhaal star in Nightcrawler. CONTRIBUTED

The work that these guys do kept making me think of TMZ and the paparazzi.
Look, here's the deal with that: I am not Angelina Jolie. I can pretty much go out of my house. Has TMZ come up to me? Yes. I deal with things with humour. This is what it is, so have some fun.

But I am not Lindsay Lohan, that's not who I am. I think if that were my life, it would be very different, it would be really, really hard for me. Because I'm very private.

The loss of manners that seems to have coincided with everyone having a camera in their phone is pretty startling.
It's unbelievable. And I'm thinking, now, look at technology. You can get a tiny little beetle-sized thing in a room with a camera. Is that what we're looking at?

I don't mean to be paranoid, but the last time I was in a hotel I thought, Do they put cameras in rooms? Not just with me but with everyone?

Where's that going, with drones that go right up to your window and take pictures. It's a scary world in terms of privacy.

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Cronenberg is a creature of comfort

David Cronenberg's career may have lasted nearly five decades, but he's still discovering his muses. His latest film, Maps to the Stars, notably marks a reunion with actor Robert Pattinson. "It's exciting to cast an actor that you worked with and you get along with," said Cronenberg. "It gives you comfort in that you have a comrade in arms who you know will not crack." In light of Maps' theatrical release on Friday, we take a look at Cronenberg's favourite young comrades.

STEVE GOW scene@metronews.ca

Robert Pattinson

History: Maps to the Stars marks the second partnership with Cronenberg after Cosmopolis. In the 2013 film, he played a powerful billionaire being chauffeured in his limo. In Maps, he's a naïve limo driver desperate to be a star.

Cronenberg: "Rob is a lovely sweet guy to work with. Of course he's got charisma because he wouldn't have been the success that he was, even in Twilight, without having something, but I think he's much more chameleon-like than people give him credit for."

Sarah Gadon

History: Gadon is perhaps Cronenberg's most frequent muse, with three collaborations in her filmography (Maps, A Dangerous Method and Cosmopolis). In fact, the Toronto talent is practically part of the family now having also starred in the 2012 thriller Antiviral (directed by David's son, Brandon).

Cronenberg: "She's really magical. She's got such an amazing presence and face, great voice and (she's) tough artistically — she's not afraid of anything."

Viggo Mortensen

History: Cronenberg may be partly responsible for the actor's sole Oscar nomination, for a wrenching role in Eastern Promises, but don't overlook the duo's other captivating collaborations: A History of Violence and the Sigmund Freud biopic, A Dangerous Method.

Cronenberg: "Getting Viggo to play Freud, he's never done anything like that. It's scary for both of us but he had to trust me. He didn't think he could do it, but once he plugged into it and you get the fake nose and he puts on some weight and suddenly the beard — it's Freud!"

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Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:* +

Mystery & Suspense

Horns

Director. Alexandre Aja

Stars. James Remar, Daniel Radcliffe

Based on the novel by Joe Hill, Horns is a supernatural thriller. The film follows Ig Perrish (Daniel Radcliffe), the No. 1 suspect for the violent rape and murder of his girlfriend, Merrin (Juno Temple). Hungover from a night of hard drinking, Ig awakens one morning to find horns starting to grow from his own head and soon realizes their power drives people to confess their sins.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 58% **Audience:** + 93%

Drama/Comedy

The Boy Who Smells Like Fish

Director. Analeine Cal y Mayor

Stars. Douglas Smith, Zoë Kravitz

Plagued by a bizarre condition that makes him smell like fish, a young boy who lives in a museum dedicated to Guillermo Garibai wrestles with the social isolation that results from his rancid condition until a mysterious woman appears in his life to offer hope where all seemed to be lost.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** + 83%

Drama

Nightcrawler

Director. Dan Gilroy

Stars. Jake Gyllenhaal, Rene Russo

Nightcrawler is a pulse-pounding thriller set in the underbelly of contemporary Los Angeles. Jake Gyllenhaal stars as Lou Bloom, a driven young man desperate for work who discovers the high-speed world of L.A. crime journalism. Finding a group of freelance camera crews who film crashes, fires, murder and other mayhem, Lou muscles into the cutthroat, dangerous realm of nightcrawling.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 89% **Audience:** 90%

Comedy

Birdman

Director. Alejandro González Iñárritu

Stars. Michael Keaton, Lindsay Duncan

Birdman or The Unexpected Virtue Of Ignorance is a black comedy that tells the story of an actor (Michael Keaton) — famous for portraying an iconic superhero — as he struggles to mount a Broadway play. In the days leading up to opening night, he battles his ego and attempts to recover his family, his career, and himself.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 93% **Audience:** 92%

International

These Final Hours

Director. Zac Hilditch

Stars. Nathan Phillips, Angourie Rice

A young man makes his way to the party to end all parties on the last day on Earth but ends up saving the life of a little girl searching for her father, who ultimately leads him on the path to redemption.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 94% **Audience:** + 95%

Comedy

St. Vincent

Director. Theodore Melfi

Stars. Bill Murray, Melissa McCarthy

Maggie (McCarthy), a single mother, moves into a new home in Brooklyn with her 12-year old son, Oliver (Lieberher). Forced to work long hours, she has no choice but to leave Oliver in the care of their new neighbour, Vincent (Murray), a retired curmudgeon with a penchant for alcohol and gambling. An odd friendship soon blossoms between the improbable pair.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 64% **Audience:** + 95%

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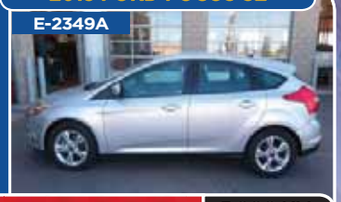
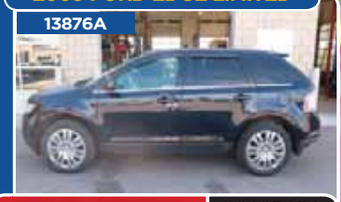


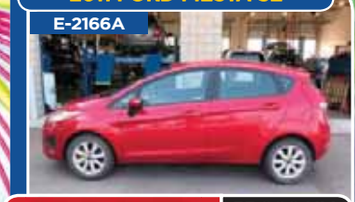
$18,988 | 5,000 KM | AUTOMATIC • A/C | HEATED SEATS • SYNC

2009 FORD EDGE LIMITED
13876A



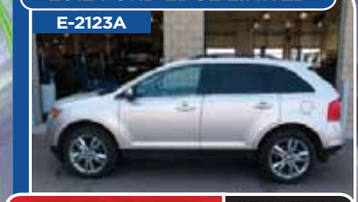
$18,977 | 90,103 KM | NAVIGATION | LEATHER • SUNROOF

2011 FORD FIESTA SE
E-2166A



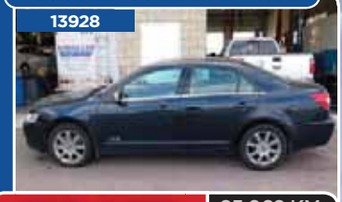
$10,977 | 55,000 KM | SPORT APPEARANCE PACKAGE

2012 FORD EDGE LIMITED
E-2123A



$22,877 | 83,095 KM | LEATHER • NAV | MYFORD TOUCH

2008 LINCOLN MKZ AWD
13928



$15,477 | 85,068 KM | SUNROOF • SYNC | THX AUDIO SYSTEM

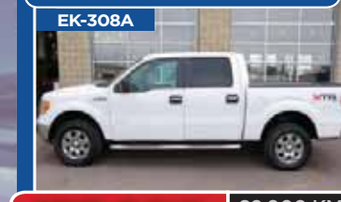
2005 MERCURY GR. MARQUIS
E-1213A

$8,388 | 105,000 KM | VERY CLEAN!

2012 F150 LARIAT CREW 4X4
E-2290A

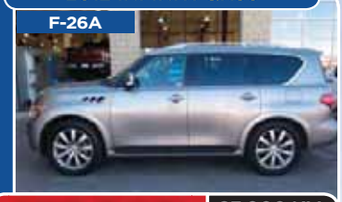
$34,995 | 39,101 KM | 5.0L V8 • LEATHER | TRAILER TOW GROUP

2012 F150 XLT CREW 4X4
EK-308A



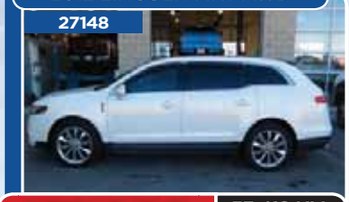
$27,088 | 82,000 KM | ECOBOOST • SYNC | XTR PACKAGE

2012 INFINITI QX56
F-26A



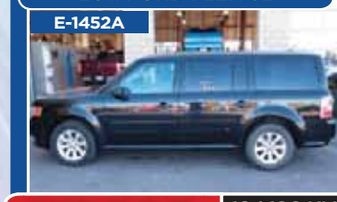
$52,995 | 83,000 KM | 5.6L V8 • 4X4 | LEATHER • NAV

2012 LINCOLN MKT AWD
27148



$33,995 | 53,419 KM | ECOBOOST • NAV | DVD ENTERTAINMENT

2011 FORD FLEX SE
E-1452A



$17,990 | 104,100 KM | V6 • SYNC • CRUISE | ALLOYS • A/C

2007 MAZDA 3 GT
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$12,998 | 60,900 KM | AUTOMATIC • A/C | POWER GROUP

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Superhero nirvana

Marvel made a huge announcement this week about its slate of films coming out between now and 2019. We put together this handy guide to keep you apprised of the superhero franchise.

METRO, ASSOCIATED PRESS, AFP scene@metronews.ca

May 1, 2015

The Avengers: Age of Ultron

Need to know: The plot, according to IMDB.com, sees things go awry when Tony Stark — Iron Man — tries to jumpstart a dormant peacekeeping program. The villainous Ultron is voiced by James Spader.

July 17, 2015

Ant-Man

Need to know: Peyton Reed is directing this story of a former con-man who can shrink when he dons a super-suit. Paul Rudd will star as Ant-Man, along with Evangeline Lilly, Michael Peña and Michael Douglas.

May 6, 2016

Captain America: Civil War

Need to know: Civil War will pit Captain America and Iron Man against each other and will also mark the debut of Black Panther to the film franchise.

Nov. 4, 2016

Doctor Strange

Need to know: British actor Benedict Cumberbatch has been widely rumoured to be tapped to play Doctor Strange, a sorcery-centric protector of Earth.

GETTY IMAGES

May 5, 2017

Guardians of the Galaxy 2

Need to know: No plot synopsis has been released, but James Gunn is scheduled to again write and direct the follow up to his 2014 Guardians film.

July 28, 2017

Thor: Ragnarok

Need to know: In the comics, Ragnarok is a cyberg-clone of Thor, created by Tony Stark and other members of the Avengers after Thor goes missing.

Nov. 3, 2017

Black Panther

Need to know: Get On Up star Chadwick Boseman is slated to portray Black Panther. In the comics, Black Panther is the leader of the fictional African nation of Wakanda who becomes a member of The Avengers.

GETTY IMAGES

May 4, 2018/May 3, 2019

The Avengers: Infinity War Parts I and II

Need to know: The third film in The Avengers franchise has been split into two films, and although the details are scant, the comic series centred on the Infinity Gauntlet, which gives its possessor godlike powers.

July 6, 2018

Captain Marvel

Need to know: Captain Marvel will mark the studio's first films centred on a female character from Marvel comics. The big-screen iteration will be Carol Danvers, a U.S. Air Force officer whose adventures take her into space in the comics.

Nov. 2, 2018

Inhumans

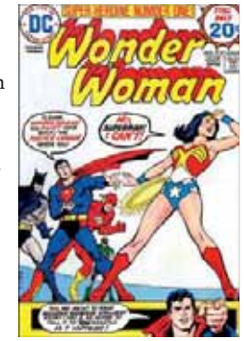
Need to know: The Inhumans are a race of superhumans who first appeared in Marvel in the 1960s.

Studio survival

Superheroes reap super returns

Money-makers: So-called "tent pole" films — big money-making movies that are often sequels to tried-and-tested blockbuster franchises — are increasingly important to studios, as the movie-watching experience fragments with online viewing. The first Avengers movie and last year's Iron Man 3 are among the top five grossing films ever, together earning more than $2.7 billion worldwide, according to Marvel.

DC Comics: In mid-October, Warner Bros. announced a slate of 10 films based on DC Comics characters, including The Flash, Aquaman, Cyborg, Wonder Woman and Shazam.



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If wishes were big film budgets

Horror. Canadian filmmaker and FX guy Steven Kostanski talks about making scares when cash is scarce

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca

Winnipeg-born, Toronto-based FX wizard Steven Kostanski (of gonzo collective ASTRON-6) learned about the ABC's of filmmaking while making his beloved, invisibly budgeted contemporary cult classics Father's Day and Manborg, outrageously innovative genre send-ups that exemplified his maverick sensibility.

So it makes sense, then, that Kostanski's latest bid for strange cinema infamy lies within the body of a film called the ABC's of Death 2 (opening today in select Canadian markets), the go-for-broke sequel to 2012's horror hit.

In it, two-dozen-plus directors (including Canada's The Soska Sisters and Vincenzo Natali) were given a random letter of the English alphabet, a modest chunk of money and allowed to let their imaginations run wild. Kostanski and his crew got 'W' and designed his segment, 'W is for Wish' accordingly.

"Our entry was based on an idea that we had already been developing," says the visionary director. "It was sort of a play on the old He-Man toys and I had already started developing a toy line surrounding the concept.

"So when we got asked to do The ABC's of Death, I thought, OK, let's combine toys with the movie and have these kids sucked in a fantasy universe and realize the toys in live action."

And that's what happens in W is for Wish, the critical favourite of the anthology — a mock commercial in which two eager lads playing with their gladiator toys are warped into an ultra-violent hell of bloody battles and brutal kink. The segment is as ingenious as it is hilarious.

"Like everything I make, W is for Wish started out as a simple idea that got considerably more complicated as we went along, and then ended up costing considerably more," says Kostanski.

"And of course, I had to kick in my own money to finish it. I'd say that everybody involved in The ABC's of Death 2 are working professionally in film, and like them, I found it hard to meet timelines, so I was literally finishing it at night while working doing FX on the new Guillermo del Toro film Crimson Peak during the day."

Kostanski's eye for design, unsubtle wit and ability to wear many hats has given him a reputation as an artist who can make a dime look like a dollar, and one wonders what in the world he'd ever do if — God forbid — someone actually gave him a sizeable budget to play with.

"If I ever had real money, I'd pay people for a change, I think," says the filmmaker, only half joking. "But low budgets keep you creative; they keep the brain working.

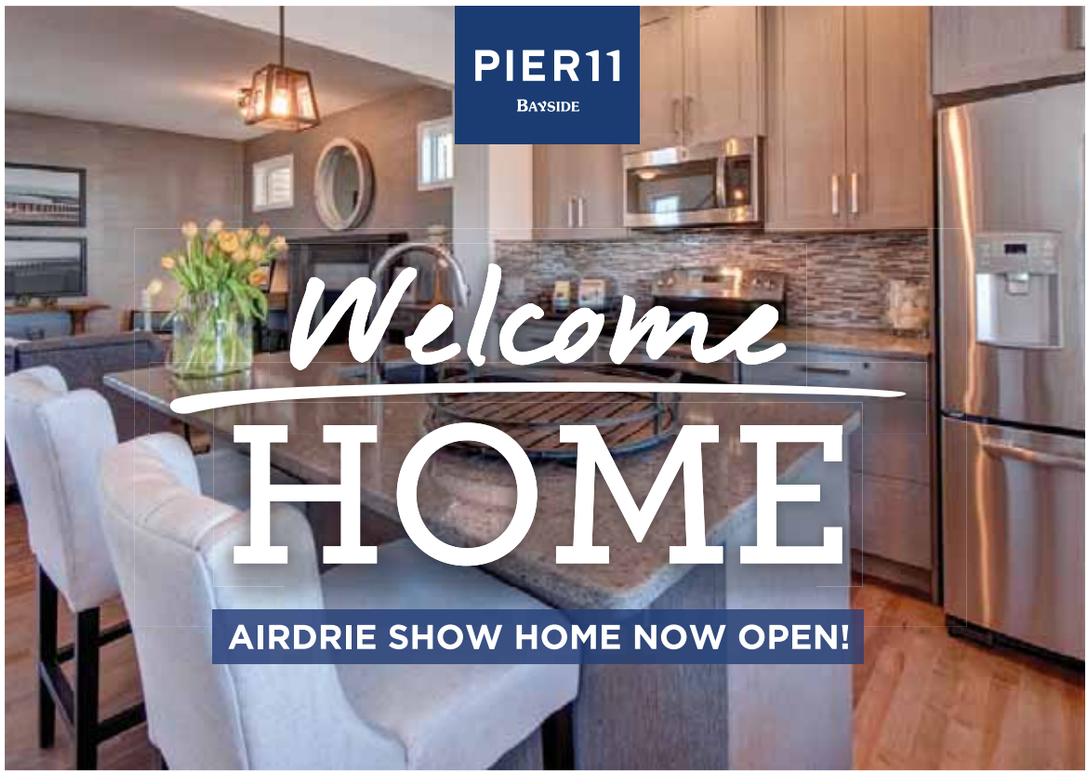
"So I'm fine where I am for now."

W is for Wish is Steven Kostanski's submission to the ABC's of Death 2 film anthology. CONTRIBUTED

Quoted

"Like everything I make, W is for Wish started out as a simple idea that got considerably more complicated as we went along, and then ended up costing considerably more."

Filmmaker Steven Kostanski on his participation in the ABC's of Death 2



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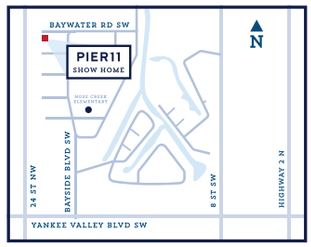

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., OCT. 31 TO THURS., NOV. 6. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Canyon Meadows Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7-9:45
The Dead Zone (STC) Wed-Thu 7:30
Dolphin Tale 2 (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:45
The Expendables 3 (PG) Fri-Thu 9:45
The Giver (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-7:25-9:50
Hector and the Search for Happiness (14A) Fri-Thu 3:55-9:30
How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:20
Let's Be Cops (14A) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:20-7:15-9:55
Lucy (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-6:50-10
Maleficent (STC) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:10-7:30 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:10
A Most Wanted Man (14A) Fri-Thu 9:50
Planes: Fire & Rescue (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:55-9:30
This Is Where I Leave You (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:05-9:35
A Walk Among the Tombstones (18A) Fri-Thu 7:10-9:55

Crowfoot Crossing 91 Crowfoot Terrace

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:20-4:55-7:15-9:25 Mon-Thu 2:20-4:55-7:15-9:25
Annabelle (14A) Fri-Wed 10:20
The Best of Me (PG) Fri-Wed 4:25-7:20-10:10 Thu 4:25
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Thu 7-9:50
The Book of Life (G) Fri-Sun 12:15 Mon-Thu 1:45
The Book of Life 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:40-5-7:30-9:55 Mon-Thu 5-7:30-9:55
The Boxtrolls (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30 Mon-Thu 1:30
Dracula Untold (14A) Fri 12:25-3:05-5:25-8-10:25 Sat 5:25-8-10:25 Sun-Tue 3:05-5:25-8-10:25 Wed 2:55-5:25-8-10:25 Thu 3:05-5:25-8-10:25
Fury (14A) Fri-Sun 12:55-4-7-10:05 Mon-Thu 4-7-10:05
Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Sun 12:05-3:20-6:40-10 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:40-10
Interstellar (PG) Thu 9
John Wick (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15
The Judge (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:45-6:55 Mon-Tue 3:30-6:55 Wed 3:45-6:55 Thu 3:45
The Maze Runner (PG) Fri-Tue 1:25-4:20-7:05-9:45 Wed 1:25-4:20-9:45 Thu 1:25-4:20-10:25
The Metropolitan Opera: Carmen (STC) Sat 10:55
National Theater Live: Of Mice and Men (STC) Thu 7
Nightcrawler (14A) Fri-Tue 2-4:50-7:40-10:30 Wed 4:50-7:40-10:30 Thu 2-4:50-7:40-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
Ouija (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:15-5:35-7:55-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:15-5:35-7:55-10:20
Rango (PG) Sat 11
St. Vincent (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Mon-Tue 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Wed 5:10-7:40-10:10 Thu 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
Vikings From the British Museum (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7:30

Eau Claire Market, 200 Barlay Parade

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:40
Fury (14A) Fri 6:20-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 6-9
Gone Girl (18A) Fri 6:50-10 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:50-10 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:50
Interstellar (PG) Thu 8
The Judge (14A) Fri 6:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:40 Mon-Tue 5:20-8:30
Nightcrawler (14A) Fri 7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:10-9:10
St. Vincent (PG) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:40-4:10-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:20

Landmark Cinemas 16

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Annabelle (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50-7:20-9:50
The Boxtrolls (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:35
Dolphin Tale 2 (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:40
Dracula Untold (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:50-7:15-9:50
The Equalizer (14A) Fri-Thu 7-9:55
Happy New Year (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-7:30
The Hundred-Foot Journey (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-7-9:45
The Judge (14A) Fri 12:45-3:45-6:45 Sat-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45
Left Behind (PG) Fri-Thu 7:10-9:40
Let's Be Cops (14A) Fri-Thu 7:25-9:55
The Maze Runner (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-7:05-9:40
The Rocky Horror Picture Show (14A) Fri 10
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) Fri-Thu 3:55
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25

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Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri 1:15-4:15-7:10-9:40 Sat 10:45-1:15-4:15-7:10-9:40 Sun-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:10-9:40
Big Hero 6 (G) Thu 7-9:45
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Thu 7:30-10:15
The Book of Life (G) Fri-Thu 3:40
The Book of Life 3D (G) Fri 12:45-6:20-9:30 Sat 10:15-12:45-6:20-9:30 Sun-Wed 12:45-6:20-9:30 Thu 12:45
Dracula Untold (14A) Fri 4:30-7:50-10:25 Sat 10:30-1:45-4:30-7:50-10:25 Sun-Tue 1:45-4:30-7:50-10:25 Wed 4:30-7:50-10:25 Thu 1:45-4:30
The Equalizer (14A) Fri-Wed 12-3:10-6:30 Thu 12-3:10
Fury (14A) Fri-Wed 12:15-3:30-7-10:15 Thu 6:45-10 Thu 12:15-3:30

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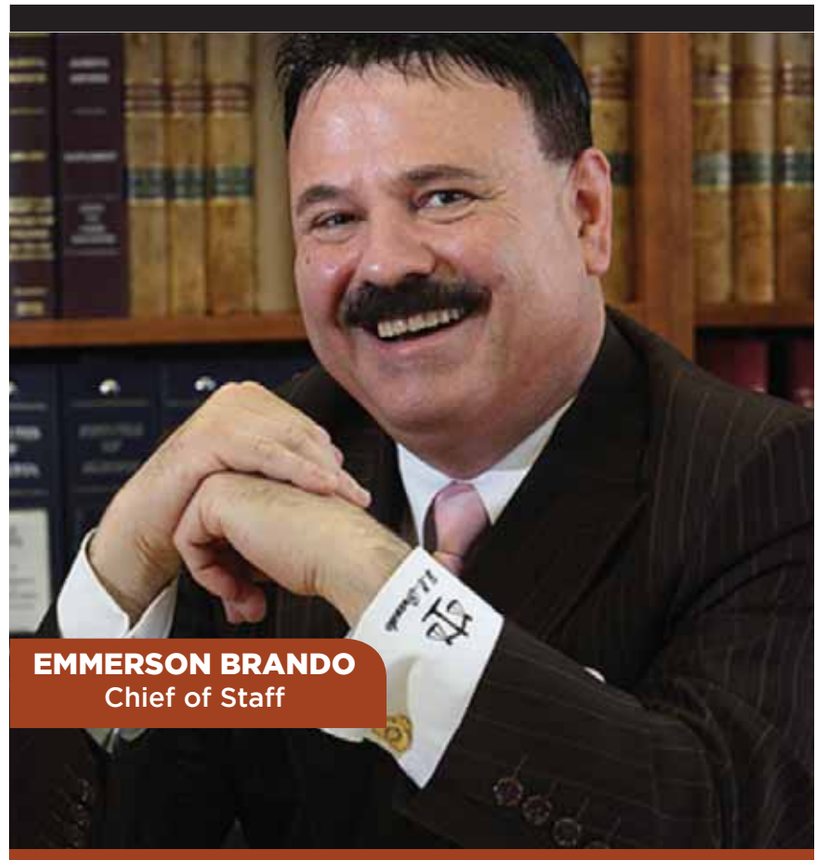

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Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Wed 12:30-4-8 Thu 12:30-4-8:15
Interstellar (PG) Thu 8:30 Thu 8
John Wick (14A) Fri 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:20 Sat 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:20-10:20 Sun-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:20
The Judge (14A) Fri-Wed 12-3:20-6:45-10 Thu 12-3:20
The Maze Runner (PG) Fri-Wed 9:50
Ouija (14A) Fri 1:45-4:45-7:40-10:30 Sat 10:45-1:45-4:45-7:40-10:30 Sun-Wed 1:45-4:45-7:40-10:30 Thu 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:30
St. Vincent (PG) Fri 1-3:50-7:30-10:10 Sat 10:15-3:50-7:30-10:10 Sun-Wed 1-3:50-7:30-10:10 Thu 1-3:50-7:15-10:10 Sat 1 Wed 1

Globe Cinema, 617-8 Avenue

ABCs of Death 2 (18A) Fri 6:30 Sat-Thu 9
Apur Panchali (PG) Sun 1
Chaar (STC) Sun 3
Love Is Strange (14A) Fri 7:10 Sat 1:10-7:10 Sun-Thu 7:10
My Old Lady (PG) Sat-Sun 1-3-7 Mon-Thu 7
Mystery 80's Horror Film (STC) Fri 9:30
Young Ones (STC) Fri 9:10 Sat 3:10-9:10 Sun-Thu 9:10

Scotiabank Chinook 6455 MacLeod Trail

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri-Sun 12:45-3-5:15-7:30-9:45 Mon-Wed 1:20-3:55-7-9:45 Thu 3:55-7-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Annabelle (14A) Fri-Sat 4:45-7:30-10:05 Sun 4-7:30-10:05 Mon-Wed 4:45-7:35-10:15 Thu 4:45
Before I Go to Sleep (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:20-5:45-8:05-10:25 Mon-Wed 1-4:25-7:10-9:35 Thu 1-4:25-7:10-10:30
The Best of Me (PG) Fri 1:50-4:40-7:25-10:10 Sat 4:40-7:25-10:10 Sun-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:25-10:10
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Thu 7-9:50
The Book of Life (G) Fri-Sun 12:20 Mon-Thu 12:55
The Book of Life 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:55-5:20-7:50-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:05-9:35
The Boxtrolls (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40
The Boxtrolls 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 3:05
David Bowie Is (PG) Thu 7:30
Dracula Untold (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:05-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:20-6:55-9:50
The Equalizer (14A) Fri 1:25-4:25-7:45-10:45 Sat-Sun 4:25-7:45-10:45 Mon-Tue 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:20 Wed-Thu 1:10-4:15-10:20
Fury (14A) Fri-Sun 5:35-9:25 Mon 5:35-9:40 Thu 7:15-10:20 Fri-Sun 12:50-3:55-7:20-10:25 Mon-Wed 1-4:05-7:15-10:20 Thu 1-4:05
Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:35-7-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:35-3:50-7:10-10:25
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15
Guardians of the Galaxy 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 4:10-7:20-10:20 Mon-Wed 4:10-7:05-9:55 Thu 4:10
Interstellar (PG) Thu 8
Interstellar: The IMAX Experience (PG) Tue 8 Wed-Thu 2-5:30-9
John Wick (14A) Tue 8-10:30 Wed-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30
John Wick: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Sat 12:25-3-5:30-8:05-10:40 Sun 12:25-3-5:30-8-10:40 Mon 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Tue 12:30-3
The Judge (14A) Fri-Sat 1:30 Sun 12:50 Mon-Thu 1:30
Maps to the Stars (18A) Fri-Wed 1:45-4:30-7:15-9:55 Thu 4:30-7:15-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Maze Runner (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-4:05-7:10-10 Mon-Tue 1:05-4:05-6:50-10 Wed-Thu 1:05-4:05-10
The Metropolitan Opera: Carmen (STC) Sat 10:55
National Theater Live: Of Mice and Men (STC) Thu 7
Nightcrawler (14A) Fri-Thu 1:55-4:50-7:40-10:30
Ouija (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:30-5:50-8:10-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:30-4-7:30-10:05
Rango (PG) Sat 11
St. Vincent (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:50-5:25-8-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:20-7-10:05
Vikings From the British Museum (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7:30

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No Films Showing Today (STC) Thu
The Rocky Horror Picture Show (14A) Fri-Sat 9:15-11:45 Sun 9
These Final Hours (14A) Fri 7 Sat 1:30-7 Mon-Tue 7-9 Wed 7

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Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:05-7:15-9:25 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:05-6:30-8:40
Annabelle (14A) Fri-Sun 2-4:35-7:30-9:55 Mon-Wed 2-4:35-7:20-9:45 Thu 2-4:35
The Best of Me (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:35-6:30-9:30 Mon-Wed 2:30-6:40-9:35 Thu 2:30
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Thu 7-9:45
The Book of Life (G) Fri-Sun 12:30 Mon-Thu 1:05
The Book of Life 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:30-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:30-6-8:30
Dracula Untold (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:20-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 12:55-3:20-6:20-8:50
The Equalizer (14A) Fri-Sun 2:20-7-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:25-7:50
Fury (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:45-6:50-10 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:40-8 Wed 4:40-8 Thu 1:30-4:40-8 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Sun 1:50-6:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:30-8:10
Happy New Year (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-4:30-9 Mon-Thu 3-7:40
Interstellar (PG) Thu 8:15
John Wick (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:50-6:55-9:35 Mon-Wed 1-3:50-7:10-9:40 Thu 7:10-9:40 Thu 1-3:50
The Judge (14A) Fri-Sun 9:50 Mon-Thu 9
The Maze Runner (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4-6:45 Mon-Thu 2:20-6:10
Nightcrawler (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:15 Mon-Tue 1:20-4:10-7-9:50 Wed 4:10-7-9:50 Thu 1:20-4:10-7-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Ouija (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:10-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:15-7:30-9:55
Rango (PG) Sat 11
The Trial (14A) Fri-Sun 2:10-6:10-9:10 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:45-8:20

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Big Hero 6 3D (G) Thu 7-9:35
The Book of Life (G) Fri-Sun 12:55 Mon-Thu 4:20
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Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Sun 1-4:25-8 Mon-Thu 5-8:30
Interstellar (PG) Thu 8
John Wick (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:05-9:50 Mon-Thu 4-6:30-9:05
The Judge (14A) Fri 1:15-4:30-7:45 Sat 4:30-7:45 Sun 1:15-4:30-7:45 Mon-Wed 4:30-7:40
Maps to the Stars (18A) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:50-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:50-9:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Carmen (STC) Sat 10:55
Nightcrawler (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-4:20-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:50
Ouija (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:15-7:15-9:55 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:15
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At 40, Hello Kitty is still just a girl

Pop culture. Everything you need to know about Hello Kitty, who's got a milestone birthday Nov. 1

Hello Kitty didn't need a backstory — or even a mouth — to become a global phenomenon. Her image can be found on just about anything, from the predictable plush toys and lunch boxes to the not-so-predictable: surfboards, motor oil, an air purifier, kitchen gadgets, jewelry, light bulbs and toilet paper.

"You could be born in a Hello Kitty maternity ward," said Dave Marchi, a spokesman for Sanrio, the Japanese company that created Hello Kitty in 1974. Here's what you need to know about the famous character, who turns 40 on Nov. 1.

Quoted

"Obviously she looks like a cat. Some people want to think of her and describe her as a cat. But we at Sanrio always reference her as a little girl."

Dave Marchi, spokesman for Sanrio, the company behind Hello Kitty

Is she a cat or not?

People reacted with shock when news emerged over the summer that Hello Kitty is not a cat, but it's really not so simple. "Sanrio does not reference her as a cat in the traditional sense: She doesn't meow, she doesn't drink milk from a bowl, she doesn't eat cat food," Marchi said. "It all comes down to how you want to describe this anthropomorphized figure. Obviously she looks like a cat. Some people want to think of her and describe her as a cat. But we at Sanrio always reference her as a little girl." He compared Hello Kitty to Mickey Mouse, a mouse that wears shorts, shoes and gloves.

Lady Gaga wears the Hello Kitty x Lady Gaga Plush Dress in this file photo. The first Hello Kitty Con, a festival of all things Kitty held in honour of the character's 40th birthday, takes place this weekend in Los Angeles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The Hello Kitty balloon appears in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The Hello Kitty Smart car. SANRIO

Does Hello Kitty have a backstory?

According to the Sanrio-Town website, yes. Her full name is Kitty White. She lives in London, has a twin sister named Mimmy and a pet cat called Charmmy Kitty. She is about five apples tall. Her favourite colour is red, and she enjoys playing piano and baking cookies.

Why is Hello Kitty so popular?

Branding expert Dorie Clark says Hello Kitty's simple, mouthless design lends to her broad appeal. "She's stoic, she's expressionless, and people can put onto her almost any kind of emotion," she said. "She can mean almost anything to anyone."

There's also the nostalgia factor, as the character turns 40. "There's an audience of people who grew up with her ... who look back on her as a warm and familiar reminder of their childhood."

Does she belong to a larger cultural phenomenon?

She is part of the Japanese culture of cuteness known as kawaii, also seen in characters such as Pikachu. "It's something clever and creative, which contributes to a certain cool factor," anthropology professor Christine R. Yano, author of Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek Across the Pacific, recently told the Los Angeles Times.

"For example, take Precious Moments (collectibles). That's cute. But there's nothing cool about Precious Moments. Hello Kitty has the potential to be so many other things."

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OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

What are the Terminator producers secretly up to?

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

It was probably foolish to have any optimism at all about the new Terminator film due next summer — especially once its title, Terminator Genisys, was revealed. But now any hope for a decent entry into the franchise is gone.

In a first look at the film in Entertainment Weekly, some extremely troubling plot details are revealed: In this edition, young Sarah Connor (now played by Games of Thrones star Emilia Clarke) "was orphaned by a Terminator at the age of nine. Since then, she's been raised by ... (Arnold) Schwarzenegger's Terminator — an older T-800 she calls Pops — who is programmed to guard rather than kill."

So does this mean that they're undoing the events of the first two films? Which happen to be the only good ones in the franchise? The film's production wrapped in August, but maybe it's not too late to send a screenwriter back in time and fix this.

But the news does at least feed into my Terminator behind-the-scenes theory: After defying the odds and making an awesome low-budget sci-fi movie followed by a groundbreaking, genre-defining sequel, the producers realized they could never top themselves, so they secretly set out to make each film successively worse. I didn't say it was a good plan.

Is it too late to scrap this movie and just bring back The Sarah Connor Chronicles?

Pass the sprinkles! Affleck and Damon bond over frozen yogurt

Ben Affleck

Ben Affleck finally returned Matt Damon's phone calls, apparently, as the Good Will Hunting scribes are teaming up to executive produce a new single-camera sitcom from 30 Rock writer Colleen McGuinness for Fox. And while the show doesn't have a title yet, it does have a ridiculously awesome-sounding premise: A young frozen yogurt shop employee suddenly discovers she has telekinetic powers. Sign me up.

Dreams dashed for Kendall and Kylie as fans aren't buying what they're selling

They can't all be bestsellers, apparently. Since debuting in June, the sci-fi YA novel "written" by Kendall and Kylie Jenner, Rebels: City of Indra, has sold just 13,000 copies, which is totally not cute. So it's safe to assume the teens' long-term goals of launching a film franchise based on the book aren't going to pan out either. "We were saying, if we were to do a movie, like, what would we want to do?" one of them explained during an interview with Good Morning America promoting the book's launch. "Like, if we were to be in it, like what movie would we want to be in?" That's a pretty big "if," young lady.

Kendall and Kylie Jenner ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

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Give dessert a disguise

Zebra Cake. Cutting into this dessert offers a delicious surprise

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Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

This recipe serves 10. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups (625 ml) unbleached all-purpose flour, sifted
- 2 1/2 tsp (12 1/2 ml) baking powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) sugar
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla extract
- 1 cup (250 ml) canola oil
- 1 cup (250 ml) milk
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) cocoa powder, sifted
- Two 3 tbsp (45 ml) ice cream scoops

Chocolate Ganache

- 1/4 cup (60 ml) warm 34% cream
- 3 oz (85 g) dark chocolate, chopped

Icing

- 1 cup (250 ml) icing sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) water

1. With rack in middle position, preheat oven to 350 F.

2. Butter 8-inch (20 cm) springform pan and line bottom with parchment paper. Set aside.

3. In a bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt. Set aside.

4. In another bowl, beat eggs with the sugar and vanilla until the mixture lightens and forms a ribbon. Drizzle in the oil while beating. At low speed, add the dry ingredients alternately with the milk until smooth.

5. Divide batter evenly into two separate bowls. Whisk cocoa powder into one of the bowls.

6. With 3 tbsp (45 ml) ice cream scoop, pour chocolate batter in centre of pan and allow to spread 20 seconds. With second ice cream scoop, pour same amount of vanilla batter in centre of chocolate batter. Allow again to spread 20 seconds. Repeat two steps alternately until all batter as been used. Bake 1 hour and 10 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the centre of cake comes out clean. Let cool for 15 minutes. Unmould from the pan and let cool completely on a wire rack.

Chocolate Ganache

1. In a bowl, pour cream over dark chocolate. Let melt 1 minute. Whisk until smooth. Spread ganache on cake, letting it slightly run down the sides.

Icing

1. In bowl, combine 1 cup (250 ml) of icing sugar with 1 tbsp (15 ml) of water. With pastry bag fitted with small tip, apply spiral of icing on ganache. From centre of spiral, drag tip of a knife outward to form a spider web. **FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED THIS SEPTEMBER!**

Liquid Assets

An array of ghoulish sips

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Halloween treats aren't just made for kids.

The variety of All Hallows' Eve-inspired adult libations has never been greater, which means you can have a sip of the season while waiting for fairy princesses and geeks in homemade hazmat suits to come knocking on your door.

Pumpkin beers are all the rage. The Maritimes can get its gourd on thanks to Propeller Brewery's Pumpkin Ale (6x341ml, $13.25). For Ontario, craft beer fans have Great Lakes' Pumpkin Ale (650ml, $4.95). And readers out west can enjoy Howe Sound's Pumpkineater Imperial Pumpkin Ale (1L, $8.75).

SNL veteran Dan Aykroyd ships his Crystal Head Vodka ($44.98 - $54.99) in a spooky bottle shaped like a human skull, making it the ultimate way to Halloween-up your Bloody Caesar.

In wine, the devil is hotter than, well, you know where. The just-released 2012 Diabolica Red ($13.99 - $18.99) is from B.C.'s Okanagan Valley. A merlot-led blend of five grapes, its balanced mix of cherry and red licorice tastes heavenly.

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CFL

John Forzani hospitalized

Stampeders great and prominent Calgary businessman John Forzani was put on life support in a California hospital on Thursday according to several media reports.

Family members have told a number of Calgary-based media outlets that the 67-year-old had a heart attack in his sleep and was taken to Eisenhower Medical Center in Palm Springs.

Tom Forzani says doctors have told them his brother is unlikely to recover.

John was an offensive lineman for six years with the Stampeders in the 1970s, where he played alongside his brothers Tom and Joe.

After he retired from football, John Forzani built a chain of successful sporting goods stores.

That chain, FGL Sports, was sold to Canadian Tire in 2011.

John established Calgary's annual Mother's Day Run and Walk in 1977, a fundraising event which continues to this day. In 2000, the Forzani Foundation was established to assist charities including Canadian amateur athletics. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

BoSox sign closer through 2016

The Boston Red Sox have signed closer Koji Uehara for two more years.

The all-star reliever will earn $18 million through 2016.

Uehara joined the Red Sox in 2013 and earned the closer's role midway through the season. He was a key part of the team that won the World Series, striking out Matt Carpenter for the final out in Game 6 last year.

He finished 2014 with a 6-5 record and an ERA of 2.52. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James shot 5 of 15 from the field and had eight turnovers as the Cavaliers fell 95-90 to the New York Knicks in the home opener in Cleveland.
JASON MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

LeBron recedes from spotlight in opener

NBA. Knicks spoil party in superstar native son's return to Cleveland

Opening night

Knicks	Cavaliers
95	90

LeBron James struggled from the start in his first game with Cleveland in four years, and the New York Knicks ruined the megastar's emotional homecoming with a 95-90 win over the Cavaliers on Thursday night.

James, who returned to the Cavs and his native Ohio this summer after winning two NBA titles in Miami, finished with 17 points on 5-of-15 shooting. He also committed eight turnovers and never looked comfortable on a night when the entire city — and a star-studded crowd — celebrated his comeback.

Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points and buried a jumper with James in his face with 25 seconds left to give the Knicks a 92-87 lead.

Kyrie Irving scored 22 and Kevin Love added 19 points and 14 rebounds for the Cavs, who have some work to before they can start thinking about any titles.

Iman Shumpert and Jason Smith had 12 points apiece for the Knicks, who were embarrassed at home on Wednesday by Chicago.

James was greeted with a thunderous ovation before the game by Cleveland fans, who had been counting down the days until the opener since he announced his return in a touching essay on July 11.

This was more than a game for Cleveland. It was a homecoming, an event and a city-wide block party rolled into one.

The Knicks wrecked it.

Cleveland's best highlights came before the game.

Afraid to miss a single moment, the sold-out crowd, which included pop star Justin Bieber, Browns players Johnny Manziel and Joe Haden, and R&B artist Usher, stood as soon as James emerged from the tunnel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Patchy Engelland's grit will stoke Flames

Deryk Engelland's big hits are a welcome addition to the team even if Flames fans haven't taken to him yet. GETTY IMAGES

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Brian Costello
calgary@metronews.ca

Hard to believe we're at the 10-game mark of the season already. The Calgary Flames got there faster than any team in the West, thanks to the schedule-maker.

The Flames opened their second 10-game segment against Montreal in which they deserved better than a 2-1 shootout loss. Here are my observations on a young season so far.

• Johnny Hockey isn't going to the American League. Gaudreau's offensive skills and defensive efforts will keep him in the NHL for good. He starred in the loss to Montreal and is almost too quick for his own good. A slight hesitation on his shootout deke would have resulted in a goal. How could management possibly sell a demotion to Calgary's skill-starved fans?

• We've seen the last of Brian McGrattan as a regular. After playing in a career-high 76 games last season, the 33-year-old enforcer has already been a healthy scratch more times this year than a year ago. He might be a comforting soul in the dressing room but he shouldn't be anything more than an emergency 14th forward. There are too many young prospects to give playing opportunities to.

• Newcomer Deryk Engelland has been eviscerated by many Flames fans for his spotty play, but I actually don't mind seeing him as a 10-minute-per-game sixth or seventh D-man. That's because he actually hits, and hits hard, something predecessor Chris Butler didn't bother doing. With so many crafty (and mostly undersized) puck-movers on Calgary's blue-line, you need at least one defender who can keep the opposition honest with a hard hit or two.

• The hockey gods will eventually reward Paul Byron with a wealth of offensive and financial numbers. The dervish winger gets so many scoring opportunities, the law of averages states eventually things will start cashing in for him.

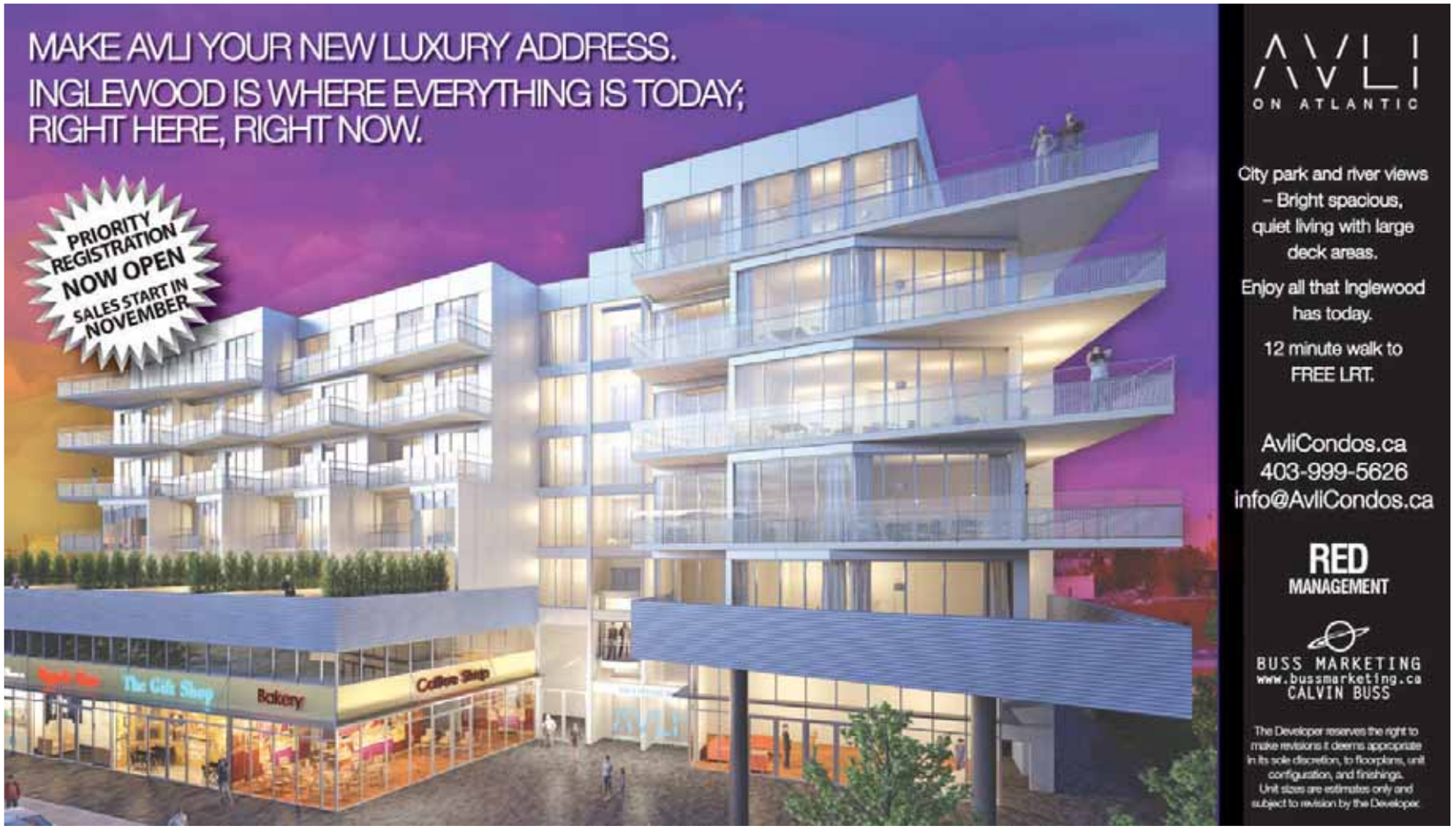
• Mikael Backlund can't be 100 per cent healthy. There's a pop missing in his offensive game and you can see it in his body language on the ice. In the same vein, Sean Monahan should be more elusive in the attack zone.

• Have the Flames finally broken the spirit of Sven Baertschi? He has just one assist in eight AHL games.

Contrasting stats

• After 11 games, Calgary ranked last in the NHL in offensive zone starts. Offensive zone starts (faceoffs) in close game situations:
Tampa Bay, 61.3%
Detroit, 59.1%
Florida, 39.5%
Calgary, 38.5%

• Conversely, Calgary ranks first in defensive zone starts:
Calgary, 61.5%
Florida, 60.5%
Detroit, 40.9%
Tampa Bay, 38.7%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The Penguins' Patric Hornqvist , left, and the Kings' Alec Martinez battle for position in Pittsburgh on Thursday night.
GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fleury, Penguins shut out Kings

NHL. Veteran goalie makes 35 saves to earn his 30th career shutout

Marc-Andre Fleury made 35 saves in his 30th NHL shutout, and Chris Kunitz had two goals in a three-point game to lift the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 3-0 victory over the Los Angeles Kings 3-0 on Thursday night.

Kris Letang scored his first goal of the season, and Evgeni Malkin became the fifth player in team history to register 400 assists as the Penguins used their dominant power play and a steady performance from Fleury to hand the defending champion Kings just their second regulation loss.

Pittsburgh went 2-for-6 with the man advantage, including two first-period goals that put the Kings on their heels.

Martin Jones made 20 saves for Los Angeles, but the Kings failed to score for the second time in 10 games this season.

The Penguins' unparalleled power play brought the crowd to life in the early going.

The Kings drew four minors in the first period, and the Penguins pounced. Kunitz flipped in his fourth goal of the season off a slick fake shot-pass from Malkin during a 5-on-3 power play 9:16 into the game. Letang doubled the lead six minutes later when he slipped the puck between Jones' legs with the Penguins up a man. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Penguins' potent power play

41

Pittsburgh began the night atop the league, converting 41 per cent of its chances with the man advantage.

Devil's night

New Jersey rallies for shootout win

Jacob Josefson scored the lone goal in the shootout, and Cory Schneider made it stand up as the New Jersey Devils ended their tiebreaker frustration with a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Thursday night.

Michael Ryder forced overtime for New Jersey, scoring the tying goal with 3:27 left in regulation. The Devils earned the shootout victory after losing all 13 last season and one other this season.

Blake Wheeler scored for Winnipeg.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

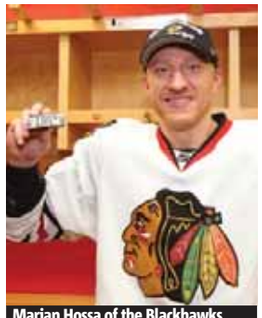
Hossa reaches milestones, leads Blackhawks to victory

Marian Hossa had a goal and an assist in the Chicago Blackhawks' 5-4 shootout win over the Senators on Thursday night in Ottawa, reaching two special milestones in the city he started his career in back in 1997.

Hossa's goal at 13:50 of the third period was just his second of the season, but it was also the 1,000th point of his career and it came on a night where he played his 1,100th game in the NHL.

Patrick Sharp scored the only goal of the shootout while Jonathan Toews scored twice for Chicago (6-3-1).

Ottawa fell to 5-2-2.
THE CANADIAN PRESS



Marian Hossa of the Blackhawks poses with the puck with which he recorded his 1,000th point against the Senators in Ottawa on Thursday.
JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

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57,092KM $26,725

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→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You have a reputation for acting on impulse but today you will show it is not entirely deserved. For best results, think about what you would like to be doing a year from now.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Just because something is popular does not mean you have to join in with it too. You are unlikely to be successful if you slavishly follow the herd.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You have strong opinions about certain issues and will make sure they get heard over the next 24 hours. You must though expect to arouse equally strong opinions in other people.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If your instincts tell you that an offer is too good to be true then you must turn it down, no matter how much others promise you will gain. There is no such thing as a sure thing.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The more difficult a task is, the more determined you will be to make a success of it. With help from Mars and Jupiter over the next few days you'll go a long way by this time next week.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
There is something you need and there is only one person who can give it to you, so you are going to have to ask.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
According to the planets a loved one is going through a bad patch and you alone can help them get out of it.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
What others expect of you bears no relation to what you expect of yourself, so there is room for confusion. Tell them that your plans come first.

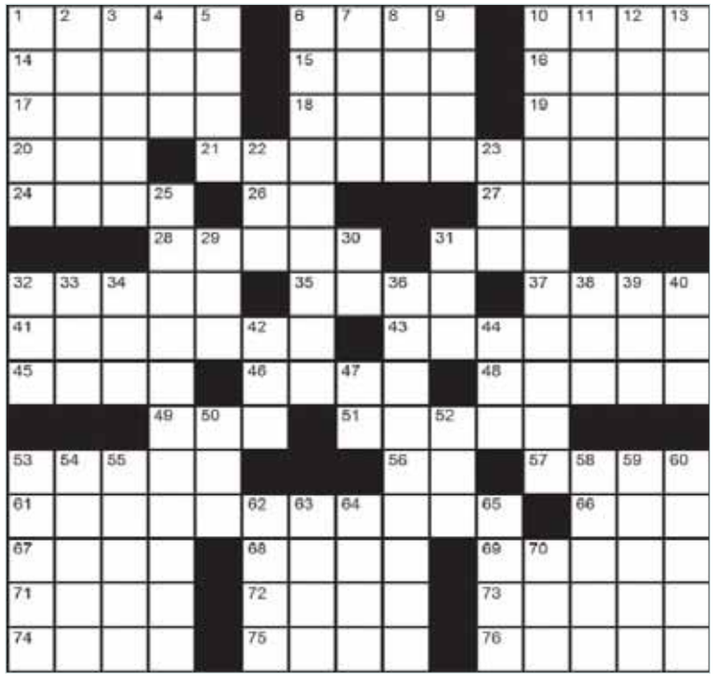
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may not realize it yet but you are on the cusp of a turning point in your life, one you will look back on in years to come and say, "That's when it started get good". Good things can happen today as well.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may not enjoy the situation you find yourself in today but the good news is if you take the chance to deal with it now it won't bug you again.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may not want to hurt a friend's feelings by saying something brutal but you are beginning to realize it may be the only way to make them see sense. Time for tough love.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't be afraid to take on more duties over the next few days, especially if you are involved in a joint creative project. The deeper you get involved, the better things will turn out.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



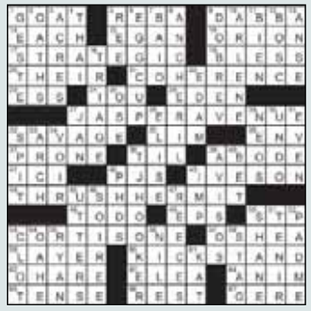
Across

1. Halloween haunter
6. Commotions
10. Nero's 1104
14. Sharp object
15. "Falling Skies" star Mr. Wyle
16. First-rate
17. "He Knows You're __" (1980)
18. "Black Swan" (2010) garb
19. __ and gore
20. Canal city in Italy [abbr.]
21. 1985 Roddy McDowall thriller: 2 wds.
24. Green-__ monster
26. Hosp. drip
27. Pains
28. Sharp-__ (Like a knife)
31. Sit-ups targets
32. Ritual site
35. Nopes
37. Snaky spots
41. He died Halloween 1926
43. Halloween Treats ...chocolate bar!: 2 wds.
45. Dr. Frankenstein's helper
46. Indigo
48. __ days
49. Wrath
51. Disinfectant brand
53. Torment
56. __-Fi
57. Fight
61. 2000 Canadian horror movie: 2 wds.
66. "__ _ scientist." ...said Victor Frankenstein
67. Busy as __: 2 wds.
68. "Take ___ face value."
69. "The Birds" (1963) star Ms. Hedren
71. "__ Window" (1954)
72. "__ Fear" (1991)
73. "A Nightmare __ __ Street" (1984)
74. Slitherer's sounds
75. Broadway star Linda of Jekyll & Hyde
76. Q. "How does 'wolf' begin?" A. "With '__', _ think."

Down

1. Body's bed below
2. "The Sixth Sense" (1999) star, __ Joel Osment
3. __ layer
4. "The __ of Frankenstein" (1939)
5. Not kosher
6. Toxic bite treatment
7. Mr. Savant of "Godzilla" (1998)
8. Pledge
9. Closed
10. Cauldron creations: 2 wds.
11. "Ahem!"
12. Stake ___ heart (Vampire eliminator)
13. Suit pieces
22. Fix
23. Capture
25. 1988 David Cronenberg directed thriller: 2 wds.
29. Antiperspirant, Soft & __
30. Prosecutor, for short
31. Fireplace residue
32. Sushi tuna
33. Journal
34. Your, in Italy
36. Exorcism need: 2 wds.
38. Polit. designation
39. Three, in Tuscany
40. Prefix with 'thesis'
42. Scot's no
44. Owl's noise
47. French pronoun
50. Cereal grass
52. Small swallow
53. Petri dish gels
54. Wisecracks, variantly
55. "Is this __ __ scary?" ...horror movie chooser's query
58. "Carrie" (1976) actress Ms. Laurie
59. Plentiful
60. "The Evil Dead" (1981) director Sam
62. The Vampire Chronicles writer Anne
63. Dutch for 'city'
64. Neck's back
65. Pack
70. 'Serpent' suffix

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	3	7	8	6	1	9	5	4
6	4	8	5	2	9	7	1	3
1	9	5	4	3	7	8	6	2
7	5	9	6	1	2	4	3	8
3	6	4	9	7	8	1	2	5
8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9
5	8	3	1	9	6	2	4	7
4	7	1	2	8	3	5	9	6
9	2	6	7	5	4	3	8	1

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2	6						5	
7				5	9			4
				4	2		9	
	1						6	
	4		8	9				
3			2	7				8
	8						4	5

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